

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001684

Date 10 November 2017

Payments for Foster Children

Request:

Please can you tell me whether foster carers are given extra money for the items/occasions below on top of their regular allowance or whether these things have to be paid for out of their regular allowance?

Can you tell me the situation this year and on each of the last five years?

If extra payments are given, please also tell me how much is paid for these items? If the amount varies, please let me know what the minimum and maximum payment is for each of the items.

On mileage. As well as the payment per mile please also tell me if carers can claim all mileage? If not please tell me the number of miles a foster carer has to drive before they can claim mileage if such an arrangement is in place.

Please also tell me what type of journeys carers can claim for ie travel without the child to training; travel without the child to meetings; travel to contact meetings with birth parents; travel with the child to meetings with social services etc)

- 1) New placement costs (ie to buy clothes, bedding etc for the arrival of a child)
- 2) Birthdays
- 3) Christmas or other religious holidays.
- 4) School uniforms

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

5) Payment for school trips
6) Savings for children
7) Mileage
So I would anticipate a table which would look something like this:

2014	Extra	Must be	2015	Extra	Must be		2016
	payments	covered		payments	covered		etc.
	available	by regular		available	by regular		
		allowance			allowance		
New		*	New		*		
placement			placement				
costs			costs				
Birthdays	Between		Birthdays	Between			
	£x and £x		-	£x and £x			
Christmas	Between		Christmas	Between			
or	£x and £x		or	£x and £x			
religious			religious				
holiday			holiday				
School		*	School		*		
Uniforms			Uniforms				
Payment	Between		Payment	Between			
for School	£x and £x		for School	£x and £x			
trips			trips				
Savings	Between		Savings		*		
for	£x and £x		for				
children			children				
Mileage	X pence	*	 Mileage	Between		_	
	per mile		-	£x and £x			
	after the						
	first X						
	miles.						

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

In response to your request, please find our response below:

	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Extra payments available	Must be covered by regular allowance	Extra payments available	Must be covered by regular allowance	Extra payments available	Must be covered by regular allowance	Extra payments available	Must be covered by regular allowance	Extra payments available	Must be covered by regular allowance
New placement costs	£300 - 1 £600 - 2 £1000 - 3	*	£300 -1 £600 -2 £1000 -3	*	£300 -1 £600 -2 £1000 - 3		£500 - Set up grant		£500 - Set up grant	
Birthdays	One weeks allowance		One weeks allowance		One weeks allowance		Between £100-180		Between £100-180	
Christmas or religious holiday	One weeks allowance		One weeks allowance		One weeks allowance		Between £100-180		Between £100-180	
School Uniforms	No additional	Clothing allowance	No additional	Clothing allowance	No additional	Clothing allowance	No additional		No additional	
Payment for School trips	2 weeks allowance annually		2 weeks allowance annually		2 weeks allowance annually		Only via PEP		Only via PEP	

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Savings for children	Between £11and £36		Between £11 and £36	*	Between £11and £36	Between £5 and £13	Between £5 and £13	
Mileage	Exceptional circumstances	*	Exceptional circumstances		Exceptional circumstances	Over 200 miles weekly - 20p per mile	Over 200 miles weekly - 20p per mile	