

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) in relation to the fostering service provision of your Local Authority:
Foster Carer Payments.

1. When did foster carers last receive an increase to their fostering allowances?
(show as month/year) [04/2012](#)
2. A breakdown of fees currently paid to foster carers, using the format below:

Age	Maintenance	Fee (N/A where not applicable)	Additional Payment (i.e. Payment for Skills) (Please specify)
0-4	£117.04	N/A	See below
5-10	£129.00	N/A	
11-15	£148.00	N/A	
16+	£172.00	N/A	

Level 1	£0
Level 2	£25
Level 3	£50
Level 4	£90
Level 5	£250
Remand	£134
Contract	£440

3. What additional payments are provided to carers, and for the additional payments that are provided, what are the standard costs for each additional payment split by age range? (Examples of additional payments are included below)
 - a. Clothing; [\(Additional\) – amount as required](#)
 - b. Holiday; [x 2 fostering allowance plus additional holiday allowance of 250 and £600](#)
 - c. Christmas/festival; [x 1 fostering allowance](#)
 - d. Birthday; [x 1 fostering allowance](#)
 - e. Equipment/furniture. [As required to reach minimum requirements and H & S](#)
4. Who is responsible (local authority or carers) for ensuring that children and young people are receiving pocket money and savings?
[Supervising social worker, child's social worker and IRO](#)
5. Are carers entitled to paid respite? If yes, how many days?

Level 5 – dependent on placement type - 3 weeks
Contract - 4 weeks

6. **Do you pay retainers to carers? If yes, under what circumstances and at what rate?**
Remand - £57.89
EDT - £70
Contract Carers and Level 5 under certain circumstances (up to 4 weeks of fee)

Panel/Assessment

7. **How many fostering panels are held every year, for assessment/approval of new foster carers?**
12 planned panels per annum.
6 – 8 overspill panels per annum.
8. **How many Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) are employed by the council for looked after children?**
6.5 IROs

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use. Please be aware that any commercial or other use, for example publication, sale, or redistribution may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as amended unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission.

Not all the information that is supplied which is covered by copyright will be the Council's copyright, for example it may be the copyright of a government department or another Council. You should seek either the Council's consent or their consent as appropriate. The Council is willing to advise you of any such potential issues on request. In order to make a request to re-use the information please contact the Information Governance Manager using the details below.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Information Governance Manager
Information and Support
Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)
New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG
e-mail: FOIA@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane

Wilmslow SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545 700

www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.