



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002374
Date 07 August 2018

Special Guardianship Allowance

Request:

I would be grateful if you could furnish me with the following information:

- 1 Do you means test if the carer/guardian is in receipt of income support or income based jobseekers allowance?
[In cases where the applicant is in receipt of a means tested benefit such as Income Support, Income-based JSA, Income-related ESA or Universal Credit, etc. the City of Wolverhampton \(CYP\), in accordance with its Financial Support to carers of children subject to Adoption, Special Guardianship or Child Arrangement Orders policy will pay the appropriate weekly allowance \(as set by government\) based on the child's age less Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit, Universal Credit payable in respects of the child who is the subject of the permanence order.](#)
- 2 If the child is in receipt of DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE do you regard this as income or do you disregard it?
[The City of Wolverhampton Council \(CYP\) acknowledges the potential extra costs involved in caring for disabled children. Therefore where Disability Living Allowance is in payment for the child it is fully disregarded as income in the calculation of any financial support. For the same reasons, our financial support policy also disregards Personal Independence Payment/Disability Living Allowance payable to the applicant \(or their partner\) as income for the assessment of financial support.](#)
- 3 If the special guardians/carers are in receipt of PERSONNEL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENTS do you regard this as income or do you disregard it?
[See above](#)
- 4 CHILD TAX CREDIT pay what they call a DISABILITY ELEMENT on top of the CTC if the child is on middle/high rate DLA do you regard this as income and deduct it or disregard and just deduct the basic CHILD TAX CREDIT?
[The City of Wolverhampton is fully committed to getting our disabled children out of care into permanent family settings . Therefore we want to encourage people willing to adopt or become special guardians to a disabled child as much as possible. Hence, again our financial support](#)

policy has been designed to allow us to disregard any Child Tax Credit 'disabled child element' or 'severely disabled child element' (or similar payments for a disabled child under Universal Credit provisions) from the financial support payable.

- 5 Special guardians are told the allowance should be the NATIONAL MINIMUM FOSTERING ALLOWANCE RATE which is set by the government every APRIL do you pay this or do you pay a higher/lower rate?
The City of Wolverhampton adhere to the National Minimum Fostering Allowance rates set every April by central government.
- 6 Do you increase the allowance annually in line with government guidelines i:e as per Q5?
Yes, we increase our weekly allowances annually in accordance with the rates set by government.
- 7 Do you deduct child benefit if the carer or special guardian is in receipt of INCOME SUPPORT OR INCOME BASED JOBSEEKERS ALLOWANCE?
In line with current statutory guidance (Special Guardianship Guidance: Statutory guidance for local authorities on the Special Guardianship Regulations 2005 as amended by the Special Guardianship (Amendment) Regulations 2016) the City of Wolverhampton Council presently deducts any Child Benefit or allowances within Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit.