



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 071529
Date 07 July 2015

Independent Foster Care Services

Request and response in 'blue':

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), for a copy of the documents containing the following information:

1. Details of the lowest, highest and average fee rates agreed with external suppliers of Independent Foster Care Services for the current year.

As per the West Midlands Sub Regional Foster Care Framework Contract:-

	0-4 y.o.	5-10 y.o	11-15 y.o.	16-18 y.o.
Lowest/Week	£525.00	£670.00	£675.00	£675.00
Highest/Week	£932.76	£1050.00	£1100.00	£1180.00
Average/Week	£716.71	£776.60	£812.32	£832.02

2. Details of the lowest, highest and average fee rates paid to local authority carers.
See attached.
3. Percentage increase in weekly fee rates which were awarded to the previous year's levels.
(External providers - no increase due to within framework period)
4. Details of the rates of each tier (if there is a framework agreement in place).

When providers submitted their costs to framework tender, each provider submitted their proposed costs against each age band (4 in total) and Tier3 (3 in total).

There are no set fees for each tiers. For instance:-

	Age Band 0-4	Age Band 5-10	Age Band 11-15	Age Band 16-18
Provider A	Tier 3	Tier 2	Tier 1	Tier 3
Provider B	Tier 1	Tier 1	Tier 1	Tier 1
Provider C	Tier 1	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 2

Providers are not aware of their competitors' costs and tiers.

5. The number of looked after children in foster care as at 31 March 2015 and of those children, the percentage looked after by independent foster agencies. There were 772 LAC as at 31/03/15 (provisional end of year data for 14/15 Financial Year). Of those, 566 LAC were in a foster care placement of some description. Furthermore, out of those 566 LAC, 345 were in a foster care placement offered by an independent foster agency (so not an LA foster placement or fostered by family/friends). This means 61.0% of LAC in a foster care placement were looked after by an independent foster agency.

Please note that we do not require details of rates paid to individual suppliers, simply minimum, maximum and average rates payable.

FOSTER CARER'S RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PAYMENTS

Years as a Carer	Weekly Payment	Daily Payment
0-2	£170.57	£24.37
2+	£181.23	£25.89
3+	£191.89	£27.41
4+	£202.55	£28.94
5+	£213.21	£30.46
6+	£223.88	£31.98
7+	£234.53	£33.50
8+	£245.19	£35.02
9+	£255.85	£36.55

CHILDREN'S FOSTERING ALLOWANCE

Age	Weekly Amount	Daily Amount
0-4	£142.86	£20.41
5-10	£162.73	£23.25
11-15	£202.58	£28.94
16+	£246.44	£35.21

CHILDREN'S AGE RELATED ALLOWANCES

Age	Clothing	Pocket Money	Savings
0-4	£21.77	n/a	£11.00
5-10	£24.34	£6.00	£16.00
11-15	£29.67	£10.00	£21.00
16+	£36.92	£15.00	£36.00

SHARED CARE BASIC ALLOWANCE

Age	Allowance
0-4	£142.86
5-10	£162.73
11-15	£202.58
16+	£246.44