

Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping  
the Promise  
Ministear airson Clann, Daoine Òga is Cumail ris a'  
Ghealladh  
Natalie Don MSP/ BPA



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29 August 2023

Dear Convener

I am writing to tell you that today I am announcing a new Scottish Recommended Allowance (SRA) for foster and kinship carers. This has followed prolonged and delicate negotiations with COSLA which only concluded very recently.

Foster and kinship carers play a valuable role in providing stable and nurturing homes for children and young people, and it is important that they are financially supported to do so. The new SRA means that for the first time foster and kinship carers across Scotland will receive a set rate, which all local authorities must pay, to support them in caring for the children and young people they look after. This is being funded by an additional £16 million from the Scottish Government, and we estimate that it will benefit more than 9,000 children. Payments will be backdated to 1 April 2023.

The detail of the weekly rates is set out at **Annex A**. Where local authorities are already paying above the SRA this will continue, so that no kinship or foster carers currently in receipt of the allowance will be worse off.

I believe that the SRA demonstrates our strong commitment to Keeping the Promise, but also the Government's priority to tackle child poverty and support the most vulnerable in society, especially given the ongoing cost of living crisis.

It is also a tangible example of how our new partnership (Verity House Agreement) with COSLA works in practice, and our collective ambition to ensure that care experienced children are loved, safe and respected so that they can reach their full potential.

I am copying this letter to the Social Justice and Social Security and Local Government, Housing and Planning Committees for information.

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Don  
Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping The Promise

## **ANNEX A**

The weekly allowances, which will be backdated to 1 April 2023, are:

0 to 4 year-olds: £168.31

5 to 10 year-olds: £195.81

11 to 15 year-olds: £195.81

16-years-old and over: £268.41