



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Jane O'Donnell
Chief Executive
COSLA

Via email only

Social Justice and Social Security
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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4 October 2023

Dear Jane O'Donnell,

Kinship Care

Congratulations on your appointment as Chief Executive. The Committee is looking forward to working with you.

In recent months, the Committee has been corresponding with COSLA regarding progress being made on recommendations regarding local authority/COSLA action and Kinship Care. COSLA provided a progress update on [13 July 2023](#), which was helpful.

The Scottish Government announced on [29 August](#) that there would be a new national allowance for foster and kinship carers. 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.

From last year's evidence sessions, which informed the Committee's report, CELCIS' submission highlighted a [2021 survey from the Fostering Network](#), which found significant differences in allowance rates between local authorities. The ranges were between:

- £77.96 to £200 per week for children aged 0-4
- £96.40 to £200 per week for children aged 5-10
- £120.00 to £240.40 per week for children aged 11 to 15
- £125.86 to £266.75 per week for children aged 16+.

The Committee considered COSLA's response, and the Scottish Government's response of [14 August 2023](#), at its meeting on 28 September and agree to write to COSLA seeking further information on what local authorities are currently paying, and when or if they will be moving to the National Allowance rate.

The Committee would welcome a response by 30 October to inform a forthcoming evidence session with the Scottish Government being held on 9 November.

This letter is also copied to Natalie Don MSP, Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise.

Yours sincerely,



Collette Stevenson MSP
Convener
Social Justice and Social Security Committee