

06 October 2023

Ms Stevenson MSP
Social Justice and Social Security
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Via Email

Dear Ms Stevenson,

Thank you for your letter of 4th October 2023 welcoming me to my role and seeking further information regarding the new Scottish Recommended Allowance (SRA) for foster and kinship carers agreed by Scottish Government and COSLA.

COSLA and our 32 member councils are fully committed to delivering the change required for Scotland to Keep the Promise for our children and young people with care-experience. The agreement of the SRA is an important milestone in supporting foster and kinship families as part of our collective efforts.

The introduction of the SRA provides a recommended allowance that all local authorities must pay as a minimum. In line with the principles agreed by Scottish Government and COSLA in February 2021, where local authorities are already paying above the national minimum allowance, this will continue so that kinship and foster carers currently in receipt of the allowance will not be worse off because of this commitment.

COSLA does not hold data on the allowances currently being paid by local authorities. Councils are now working to pay kinship and foster care allowances at either the level stipulated by the SRA, or their existing local rate, whichever is higher.

I hope this is useful for the Social Justice and Social Security Committee in their consideration of this matter. Please contact Laura Caven, Chief Officer – Children and Young People, should you wish further information.

Yours Sincerely,

Jane O'Donnell

Chief Executive
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities