**FOI special guardianship allowance NCC-032620-18**

1. Do means  test  the  carer/guardian  if  they  are  in  receipt  of income support or income based jobseekers allowance?

No we don’t, that also goes for pension credit and income based ESA.

1. If the child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, do you count this as an income or disregard it?

If the DLA is paid to the carer/guardian that it is included as income. If it is paid to the child or an appointee then it is disregarded.

1. If the carer/guardian is in receipt of Personnel Independence Payment, do you use this as income or disregard it?

This is counted as income if PIP is paid to the carer/guardian.

1. Child Tax Credit pay what they call a Disability Element on top of the Tax Credit if the child is on a high or middle rate DLA, do you deduct this element or disregard it and just deduct the basic tax credit?

The DLA is what would drive the Disability Element of the Child Tax Credit. So if the carer/guardian was in receipt of a Disability Element and was getting paid the DLA but not as an appointee then this would not be disregarded in still taken as income.

1. Do you deduct Child Benefit if the carer/guardian are in receipt of income support or income based jobseekers allowance?

If the carer/guardian was on income support, jobseekers allowance or pension credits, then we would pay the national fostering rates, less child benefit.

1. Special guardians are told that the allowance should be national minimum fostering allowance rate which is set by the government every April. Do you pay this or lower/higher rate to Special Guardians?

We pay the national fostering rates, less child benefit.

1. Do you increase the allowance annually in line with government guidelines?

Yes, we pay the national fostering rates for that year, less child benefit.