**Dear Sir/Madam,**

**Please provide information on your Special Guardianship Order service by responding to the following questions:**

1. How many children were subject to a Special Guardianship Order each year for the following financial years:

a) 2016-17 53

b) 2017-18 50

c) 2018-19 54

1. Per year, how many of the above (Question 1) received financial assistance?
2. 2016-17 – 68
3. 2017-18 – 55
4. 2018-19 – 59

This data in 2 can only be calculated but looking at new financial payments set up in each year. The figures in 2 may not wholly relate to the children made subject to SGOs in question one . We cannot provide a more accurate response to question 2 due to the way our finance reports are compiled currently .

3) How many children were subject to a Child Arrangement Order each year for the following financial years:

a) 2016-17 17

b) 2017-18 11

c) 2018-19 13

4) Are your financial payments for Special Guardianship Orders calculated using the Department for Education means test method? If not, please provide information on how they are calculated.

The Department for educations and skills model is only a test suggestion , it is on the basis of this that we conduct means tested assessments in Nottinghamshire.

1. If a special guardian is in receipt of Income Support, are any deductions made from the Special Guardianship allowance? If so, please indicate what the deductions are, i.e. Child Benefit.

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. If a carer's household income reduces, do you conduct a new financial assessment immediately as part of an emergency review, or is the carer required to wait until the next scheduled annual review for a new assessment?

Carers are informed to notify NCC of any changes that may impact the result of their means test. Ie income increase/reduction/benefits. We would then conduct a new means test assessment.

1. What is your policy around the length of time that Special Guardianship Order allowances are paid for? I.e. for two years, or until the child is 18 years old, etc. Please outline the rationale that underpins this policy.

Our policy is based on SGO regs . Payments cease when the child turns 18, unless they are in further education (evidence will need to be provided)

8)Please provide contact details for the officer in your local authority that is responsible for this area of work.

Sue Rollin Service Manager

 sue.rollin@notts cc.gov.uk Tel 0115 8041528

**Many thanks for your much appreciated help and cooperation.**