

Request

1. What is the standard hourly rate paid by your local authority for a direct payment for disabled child assessed as requiring personal care support under the Children Act 1989 Part 3?
2. Is the figure stated in answer to question 1 a net figure or a gross figure? A net figure means that the council will make additional payments to cover the costs of employing the personal care worker (ie Employers National Insurance liability, employers' liability insurance costs, holiday and sickness pay etc). A gross figure means that the recipient of the direct payment must pay all the costs of employing the personal care worker from the figure stated in answer to question 1.
3. What is the number of disabled children currently receiving direct payments as a result of being assessed as requiring support under the Children Act 1989 Part 3?
4. Does your council have a policy for increasing the sum specified in answer 1 above in cases where the cost of meeting the disabled child's assessed needs cannot reasonably be met by a payment at the hourly rate specified in answer to question 1?
5. If the answer to question 4 is yes, please provide a copy of that policy or explain why providing a copy of the policy is not possible.
6. How many of the disabled children referenced in question 3 currently receive an increased hourly rate of direct payment as per question 4, ie how often is an increased rate felt to be required?

Response

£12.64 per hour

The above figure is gross cost, and include the elements of NI and employers liability insurance costs.

As at 29th February 2024 there are a total of 382 who are in receipt of a Direct Payment package.

In Wigan there is no policy in place for increasing the sum of the hourly DP rate. However, individual cases are discussed at a multi-disciplinary panel in which each case is considered individually in terms of support and child/family needs.

Not applicable

From the 382 current cases in receipt of a children's Direct Payment there are only 2 cases where the hourly rate exceeds the £12.64 rate. These are considered annually as part of their EHC Plan.