

216901 - 1007  
Y Gwir Anrh/Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AC/AM  
Prif Weinidog Cymru/First Minister for Wales

CYNULLIAD CENEDLAETHOL CYMRU  
CHAS AETHLISEG Y CYNULLIAD  
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Welsh Assembly Government

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During my question session of 21<sup>st</sup> November you asked a supplementary question to OAQ 2081 on foster care allowances, and I undertook to write to you with a detailed response.

The contribution made by foster carers in providing the security and comfort of a family home for some of our most vulnerable children is very much appreciated.

You will be aware that under existing regulations, local authorities have the responsibility for the approval of foster parents, and deciding the level of allowance to be paid to an approved carer to support the child or children placed by them with the carer.

We issued a consultation paper earlier this month, of which I enclose, on proposed national minimum allowances and effective practice in payment systems by foster care providers. We will need to look at the responses to that consultation before taking this work forward. We will continue to monitor the level of fostering allowances paid by Welsh local authorities and, if gross inequalities were to continue, the Assembly could draw up regulations under section 49 of the Children Act 2004 to set allowances