Further to your Freedom of Information request FOI67829 please find your questions and our responses below:

1. Details of the lowest, highest and average fee rates agreed with external suppliers of Independent Foster Care Services for the current year.
2. Details of the lowest, highest and average fee rates paid to local authority carers.
3. Percentage increase in weekly fee rates which were awarded to the previous year’s levels.
4. Details of the rates of each tier (if there is a framework agreement in place).
5. The number of looked after children in foster care as at 31 March 2015 and of those children, the percentage looked after by independent foster agencies.

Response

1. (IFA rates)  Highest: £1388  
   Lowest: £656  
   Average: £805

2. (RBWM rates)  Highest: £506  
   Lowest: £202  
   Average: £406

3. There has been no increase on IFA rates, 1% for RBWM carers

4. Rates for each tier: (level 1 in red; level 2 in green; level 3 in blue) from April 2015:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age range</th>
<th>Core allowance per week per child</th>
<th>Career level payment per week per child</th>
<th>Total per week per child</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 4</td>
<td>£142.86</td>
<td>£195/ £260/ £390</td>
<td>£337.86/ £402.86/ £532.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 - 10</td>
<td>£162.73</td>
<td>£195/ £260/ £390</td>
<td>£357.73/ £422.73/ £552.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16+</td>
<td>£246.44</td>
<td>£195/ £260/ £390</td>
<td>£441.44/ £506.44/ £636.44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. The number of looked after children in foster care as at 31 March 2015 and of those children, the percentage looked after by independent foster agencies.

If you are unhappy with the information we have provided in response to your request please write to:

Information Management Team Manager  
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead  
Town Hall, St Ives Road
or send an e-mail to martin.tubbs@rbwm.gov.uk

We are proud to be one of the leading authorities in England for consistently responding to information requests within the 20 working days set down by statute. Information about our performance and summaries of requests received can be found on our website:

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/foi_information_requests.htm

We are keen to hear about your experience with the Information Management Team here at the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and look forward to receiving any comments you have about the way your information request was processed.

Please send any feedback to the Information Management Team Manager either by e-mail martin.tubbs@rbwm.gov.uk or in writing to the address above.

Yours sincerely

David Davies
Information Management Officer
Legal Department
Corporate Directorate
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Town Hall, St. Ives Road
Maidenhead SL6 1RF