

## CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

### POSSIBLE FEES OPTIONS FOR SAFEGUARDERS

Question 1: Do you agree that the current fee scheme should be abolished and replaced?

Yes  No

#### Comments

The COSLA scheme was always envisaged to keep up with inflation but has never done so, more so in some authorities than others. There are complications within the Fees structure but in principle it is reasonably sound. Accounting for all our time on a pre-hour basis is probably unrealistic.

Given that even CPI inflation the past nine years is running at over 25% then under any Option a basic appointment fee of at least £250 and a daily attendance fee of half that now seems appropriate.

Question 2: Which of the fees options (1 - 4) would you support?

Option 1  Option 2  Option 3  Option 4

#### Comments

Perhaps a hybrid of Option 2 and Option 4. An appointment fee of £250 and an attendance fee of half this, £125. For 2<sup>nd</sup> and subsequent children a fee of £62.50 per child per Hearing reflects the extra work and extra responsibility involved. This straightforward fee structure would be for both Court and Children's Hearings.

Just two other items: COURT ; if a Safeguarder does not enter Proceedings then a fixed fee of £125 for a report to the Court.

CHILDREN's HEARING; because submission of written reports is a requirement they should attract a fixed fee of £125. These are often quite lengthy and closely argued and take at least a full day to compile.

Question 3: Do you have a suggestion as to alternative method of fees payments? If so, please provide details.

Comments Yes, an alternative approach. I believe that our Fees should rightly reflect the *responsibility* we carry for *each child* (my italics). So, let me suggest the following simple structure:

An appointment fee of £250 for each child whose best interests we represent in each case and £125 attendance fee per case for each Court or Panel Hearing.

Fee comments as above for not entering as a party to Court Proceedings and provision of reports to the Children's Hearing.

**EXPENSES AND ALLOWANCES FOR SAFEGUARDERS**

Question 4: Do you accept the proposal to apply Scottish Government Rates for expenses and allowances?

Yes  No  (if you have answered 'No' please give your reasons below

Comments

Question 5: Are there other expenses or allowances you would like to be added to the proposed list?

Comments

No

Question 6: If you support an alternative set of expenses and allowances, please provide detail.

Comments