

19th February 2026

To: Department of Health (Northern Ireland)

CC: Family Care Adoption Services, Family Routes, Barnardo's NI

Dear Colleague,

Re: Inflationary Increase in the Interagency Fee for 2026/27

On 21st January 2026 the [Office for National Statistics](#) (ONS) published the Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) level for January-December 2025, which was 3.6%. In line with the agreed policy the inflationary increase in the interagency fee from 1st April 2026 will therefore also be 3.6%.

This means that, from 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027, the interagency fee levels are as follows:

Number of Children	Fee Level <i>(additional weighting of 10% applied for agencies operating in the Greater London Area)</i>
For 1 child	£40,658
For 2 children	£65,576
For 3 children	£89,184
For 4 children	£102,297
For 5 or more children	To be negotiated on an ongoing basis
Ongoing supervision	£1,127

The interagency fee covers some of the costs borne by HSCTs and VAAs in recruiting and assessing adopters, matching and placing children, and providing supervision and support up to the point of the adoption order, or for one year from placement, whichever is the sooner.

The interagency fee [guidance](#) on the CVAA website will be updated with the new figures shortly.

We are aware of the local budgetary challenges in Northern Ireland when considering interagency options for the children waiting for adoption but again draw your attention to the [A home for me?](#) report and findings demonstrating the value of adoption and the role of VAAs. We look forward to working with you in the year ahead to find more loving families for the children in your care who need the lifelong permanence that adoption provides.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [myself](#) or CVAA's Director of Strategy and Policy, [Alice Talbot](#).

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Satwinder Sandhu', written in a cursive style.

Satwinder Sandhu
Chief Executive Officer
Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies UK