

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001214
Date 9 June 2017

Domiciliary Care

Request:

1. Details of the lowest, highest and average fee hourly rates agreed with external suppliers of the following services for 2017/2018:
 - a. Domiciliary care services for the elderly in their own home.
Highest: £14.12
Lowest: £13.00
Average: £14.02
 - b. Domiciliary care services for adults under the age of 65 in their own home with specialist care needs such as learning disabilities, autism or physical disabilities.
Highest: £27.00
Lowest: £13.00
Average: £13.87

(Please note that for questions 1a and 1b, we do not require details of rates paid to individual suppliers, simply minimum, maximum and average rates payable.)

2. Details of the minimum, maximum and average amount agreed per night for sleep-in shifts delivered to adults under the age of 65, with specialist care needs. Following careful consideration, the Council regrets to inform you that it has decided not to disclose this information.

Information you have requested has been withheld from disclosure. The exemption engaged is Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

Section 12 of the FOI exempts Public Authorities from providing information where the estimated cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Any estimate must be undertaken in accordance with the limits set in fees regulations made under Section 12 (5) of the FOI.

These Fees Regulations (SI 2004/3244 Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations) allow for a refusal where the cost of compliance, for local authorities such as the Council, would exceed £450. As a guide, staff time to identify and extract this information is charged at a rate of £25 per hour.

In summary to provide the information you have requested it would take us longer than 18 hours to compile as we do not record this type of information centrally and therefore we would have to carry out a manual trawl (scrutinise) of numerous case files to gather the information you have requested.

In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

“(a) determining whether it holds the information,

(b) locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,

(c) retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,

and

(d) extracting the information from a document containing it”.

3. Details of the percentage increase in hourly fee rates which were awarded to the previous year's levels.

2.7%

4. Details of the number of hours provided in the week commencing 24 April 2017 for:

- a. elderly domiciliary care; and

There were 10,186 hours of elderly domiciliary commissioned for week commencing 24th April 2017.

There were also 2,330 hours of elderly domiciliary commissioned for week commencing 24th April 2017 as a direct payment.

- b. specialist care (incorporating mental health, learning disabilities, physical disabilities).

There were 4,351 hours of specialist domiciliary commissioned for week commencing 24th April 2017.

There were also 5,959 hours of specialist domiciliary commissioned for week commencing 24th April 2017 as a direct payment.

5. Of the hours listed in answer to question 4, please advise:

- a. what percentage was delivered by the independent sector,

100%

- b. what percentage was delivered by the local authority, and

0%

- c. what percentage was under direct payments/independent budgets.
Everyone client who receives domiciliary care would be allocated an Independent Budget which they can choose to either have as a direct payment or have the council arrange services on their behalf.

Based on the hours commissioned for week commencing 24th April, 39% were arranged via direct payments.

6. Total cost in the week commencing 24 April 2017 of the care hours provided by independent providers in both categories of care.
Elderly Care: £169,820
Specialist Domiciliary: £136,180