



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001742
Date 28 November 2017

The Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources)

Request:

The assessment of an adult's available income for the purposes of charging for care and support under the Care Act 2014.

I'd be most grateful if you could supply answers to the following questions. The aim of the questions is to ascertain whether your authority, when determining how much an adult must pay for their care and support provided with under the Care Act 2014, permit the adult to retain enough of their income (in addition to the minimum income guaranteed by the relevant regulations) to pay for reasonable expenditure incurred in feeding and maintaining a household pet cat or dog.

If your authority considers that complying with this request in its entirety will exceed the statutory cost of compliance limit (specified in The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004) then I ask that you respond to the following questions in the order they appear until that limit is reached.

The regulations referred to in the following questions are The Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) Regulations 2014.

The questions that comprise this Freedom of Information request are as follows:

1. When assessing whether a charge for non-residential care and support provided under the Care Act 2014 is reasonably practicable for an adult to pay, does your council permit, in any circumstances, adults to retain enough of their income (ie in addition to the minimum income guaranteed in regulation 7 and in addition to any disability-related expenditure in paragraph 4 Part 1 Schedule 1 of the regulations) to pay for reasonable expenditure incurred in feeding and maintaining a household pet cat or dog (excluding a guide dog or assistance dog)? [No, non-residential care and support charges are levied in accordance with the Care Act 2014 and the Statutory Guidance which states that "Because a person who receives care and support outside a care home will need to pay their daily living costs such as rent, food and utilities, the charging rules must ensure they have enough money to meet these costs. After charging, a person must be left with the minimum income guarantee \(MIG\), as set out in the Care and Support \(Charging and Assessment of](#)

Resources) Regulation 2014. In addition, where a person receives benefits to meet their disability needs that do not meet the eligibility criteria for local authority care and support, the charging arrangements should ensure that they keep enough money to cover the cost of meeting these disability-related costs." The maintenance of a household pet would be considered as part of "daily living expenses" and not specifically provided for as an additional expense unless such maintenance could be considered as disability-related, for example – to promote emotional and psychological wellbeing.

2. If the answer to 1 above is Yes:
Does your council have a policy as to when it is appropriate to permit an adult to retain enough of their income to pay for reasonable expenditure incurred in feeding and maintaining such a pet?

3. If the answer to 2 above is Yes:
Please provide a copy of the policy or, if it is an unwritten policy, explain the basic criteria applied in deciding when it is reasonable to permit an adult to retain enough of their income to cover this expenditure?