

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002808
Date 28 September 2018

Social Care Top Up Fees

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please tell me:

1. Please tell me the total number of care home placements for individuals aged 65+ organised by the local authority in the financial years of:
2015-2016: 1,364
2016-2017: 1,399
2017-2018: 1,302

2. Please tell me the total number of care home placements that include a third party top up fee for someone aged 65+ organised by the local authority in the financial years of:
2015/2016: 236
2016/2017: 278
2017/2018: 260

3. Please tell me the percentage of people that were offered a care placement that was within their personal care budget in the financial years of:
2015/2016:
2016/2017:
2017/2018:
With reference to question 3, your request for information has now been considered and the City of Wolverhampton Council is not obliged to supply the information you requested for the reasons set out below.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires City of Wolverhampton Council, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies:

In relation to your particular request, the following exemption applies:

Section 12 - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

We can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information.

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 18 hours of work). 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.*

For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.

The information appertaining to your request is not easily accessible and as such this information is not held as a distinct set able to be retrieved or reported on. To get the information would require a trawl of records which would involve a manual exercise and as such we believe that the aggregated time it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).

Excess cost removes the City of Wolverhampton Council's obligation under the Freedom of Information, however under Section 16 – (the duty to provide advice and assistance, the Council may be able to provide answers to the request, should you wish to submit a refined request.

4. What was the most expensive and the cheapest third party top up fee in your area in the financial years of:
2015-2016: Most Expensive: £1,178, Cheapest: £1.40
2016-2017: Most Expensive: £753, Cheapest: £2.08
2017-2018: Most Expensive: £679, Cheapest: £2.14