



2 July 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1175

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Prices Paid for Homecare Services**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 13 May 2025. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Finance & Estates Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Manning
Information Governance Officer

We ask you to provide the information described below, including the prices paid to independent and voluntary sector Homecare Providers for the provision of regulated Homecare services delivered to people aged 65 years and over in their own home during the seven-day Reference Period which includes Monday 14 April 2025.

Questions 1 to 9 refer to Homecare services. Questions 11 and 12 refer to Direct Payments.

Q1. The lowest rate per hour paid to any individual Homecare Provider during the Reference Period, expressed in pounds and pence per hour.

A1. The lowest rate paid, during the 7 day reference period, was £21.35 per hour.

Q2. The highest rate per hour paid to any individual Homecare Provider during the Reference Period, expressed in pounds and pence per hour.

A2. The highest rate paid, during the 7 day reference period, was £21.35 per hour

Q3. The average (“arithmetic mean”) rate per hour paid to all Homecare Providers for all Homecare services purchased during the Reference Period, expressed in pounds and pence per hour.

A3. The average rate paid, during the 7 day reference period, was £21.35 per hour

Q4. The total hours of Homecare purchased from all Homecare Providers during the Reference Period (i.e. any period of seven consecutive days which includes Monday 14 April 2025).

A4. 54,005 hours were provided to clients aged 65+ in the week including Monday the 14th April 2025. This excludes hours provided by the Trust in-house homecare service.

Q5. The total hours of Homecare purchased from all Homecare Providers during a seven-day period which includes Monday 15 April 2024 (i.e. the figure which provides a like-for-like comparison with item (d), above, for the previous year).

- A5. 53,645 hours were provided to clients aged 65+ in the 7 day period which includes Monday 14 April 2024. This excludes hours provided by the Trust in-house homecare service.
- Q6. Your organisation's total spend on Homecare services purchased from all Homecare Providers during the Reference Period.**
- A6. £1,073,436.45 was spent on hours purchased for clients aged 65+ during the 7 day reference period.
- Q7. The total number of Homecare Providers that delivered the total hours of Homecare purchased during the Reference Period (as specified in item (d), above).**
- A7. 27 providers delivered the hours of Homecare purchased during the 7 day reference period.
- Q8. The total number of people aged 65 years and over that received Homecare services from Homecare Providers during the Reference Period.**
- A8. There were 4,228 clients aged 65+ who received Homecare services in the 7 day reference period. This excludes clients who received their care from the Trust in-house homecare service.
- Q9. A brief description of the type of contracts you currently hold with Homecare Providers (i.e. whether they are block contracts, lead provider contracts, framework contracts, spot contracts, etc.).**
- A9. The vast majority of contracts held with Homecare providers are spot purchase contracts, though a small number of block contracts are also held with some providers.
- Q10. The 2025-26 rate per hour for a Direct Payment, expressed in pounds and pence per hour. If you have more than one Direct Payment rate per hour, please select the rate paid to a recipient to employ a personal assistant (PA). If you have more than one Direct Payment PA rate per hour, please provide all such rates.**
- A10. The rate is £18.53 per hour for a direct payment.
- Q11. The total number of adults in receipt of a Direct Payment as of: (I) 1 April 2024 and (II) 1 April 2025 (or dates as close to these as possible).**
- A11. As of 31 March 2024, 1,331 adults were in receipt of a Direct Payment. As of 31 March 2025, 1,328 adults were in receipt of a Direct Payment.