

27 April 2018

Our Ref: RFI 23167

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Carers Allowance**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to the above which you requested on 9 April 2018.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Nursing, Primary Care and Older People Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

Under the terms of the legislation, if you are unhappy with this response you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. If you wish to do so, please write to me at the address below.

If after such a review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner who will undertake an independent review. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF.

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

**L McAree (Miss)
Head of Information Governance &
Directorate Support**

I wish to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would like to know:

Q1. *The number of people receiving a carers allowance in your local authority each year from 2015 to the present day (or the last day for which data is held). If possible, I would also like to know specifically the number of carers for elderly people (however this is categorised - over 60s for instance) each year.*

A1. Carer's Allowance is the responsibility of the Social Security Agency and not a responsibility of the Trust. The Trust does not hold this information.

Q2. *The number of carers assessments carried out by your local authority each year from 2015 to the present day (or the last day for which data is held)*

A2. This data is published by Department of Health quarterly and can be accessed through this link

https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/search?query=carer+assessment&edit-submit-button=Go&as_sfid=AAAAAAVbPRmrzU3mX55ZASNIOM2P6jNZB3xQdRyCmd8P3iqEZTb324vwOoQ5FCJ-ysbISw2CUdleqczqXZN7CAKWiL0yseRgvtDEHPUQFA4m8NM1cEAzAnBGb8b4TsKHs5zOyDg%3D&as_fid=f75f77adb7b08aa51901c789cd62f243e8672a0c

Data for Quarter 4 ending March 2018 will be available in due course.

Q3. *How often your authority carries out a carer's assessment for each carer. Is there a standard check up every year for instance, or does it vary according to need?*

A3. Carer assessments are offered as soon as possible in a carers journey. There is no set time laid down for reviewing carer assessments. It depends on individual need and the wishes of the carer.

Q4. *The numbers of carers receiving help after a carers assessment each year from 2015 to the present day (or the last day for which data is held). If possible, I would like the type of help broken down. For example, the number of cases where communications devices (such as laptops) were awarded, or respite breaks.*

A4. The information available to the Trust regarding outcomes of carer assessment is the number of individual payments made to carers.

For the Financial year 2015/2016 there were 608 payments; for 2016/2017 there were 879 payments and for 2017/2018 there were 945 payments. These are payments made to carers to enable them to look after their own

wellbeing or to make their caring role easier. There is a range of other services and supports e.g. domiciliary care; day care etc that is provided to carers that may be the result of a carer assessment or may result from the assessment of the cared for person which also benefits the carer.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the type of help provided as this information not centrally recorded. To obtain this information would require a manual review of records.

This would exceed the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust therefore exempts the release of this information under Section 12(1).

12.-(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.