

06 July 2021

Our Ref: RFI 39599

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Request for 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 the above which you requested on 11 June 2021.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Planning, Performance and Informatics 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 Assistant

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 or above in their own home during the seven-day Reference Period which includes Monday, 19 April 2021.

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 per hour paid to any individual Homecare Provider during the seven-day Reference Period which includes Monday 20 April 2021 was £15.68.

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 per hour paid to any individual Homecare Provider during the seven-day Reference Period which includes Monday 20 April 2021 was £15.68.

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

A3. The average price per hour paid to all Homecare Providers for all hours of homecare services purchased during the seven day reference period which includes Monday 20 April 2021 was £15.68.

Q4. The total hours of Homecare purchased from all Homecare Providers during the Reference Period.

A4. The total hours of Homecare purchased from all Homecare Providers during the reference period which includes Monday 20 April 2021 was 45,239.

Q5. The total hours of Homecare purchased from all homecare providers during a seven-day period which includes Monday, 20th April 2020 (i.e. the figure which provides a like-for-like comparison with item (d), above, for the previous year).

A5. The total hours of Homecare purchased from all homecare providers during a seven-day period which includes Monday 20th April 2020 was 37,455, this figure provides a like-for-like comparison with Q1D for the previous year.

Q6. Your organisation's total spend on Homecare Services purchased from all Homecare Providers during the Reference Period.

A6. The total spend of the Trust on Homecare Services purchased from all Homecare Providers during the reference period which includes Monday 20th April 2020 was £711,506.57.

Q7. In relation to contracts held with independent and voluntary sector Homecare Providers:

a. Whether your organisation has imposed a contractual requirement that any Homecare Provider pay their workers an hourly rate above the prevailing rate of the statutory National Minimum Wage (including the statutory National Living Wage). Please answer "Yes" or "No".

a. No, the Trust has not imposed a contractual requirement.

b. The minimum pay rate specified, in pounds and pence per hour, if the answer to question above, was "Yes".

b. N/A

Q8. In relation to how you have calculated the price(s) you pay for Homecare:

a. Whether, in the financial years 2019-20, 2020-21 or 2021-22, you have undertaken a numerical calculation of the hourly cost of a homecare service to assure yourself that the price(s) you pay to independent and voluntary sector Homecare Providers covers their costs and expectations of a profit or surplus. Please answer "yes" or "no".

a. No, the Trust has not undertaken a numerical calculation of the hourly cost of a homecare service.

b. If your answer to question 8a was "yes", please supply a copy of the most recent numerical calculation referred to in your answer, including the financial year to which it relates. For the avoidance of doubt, this question asks you to supply a numerical calculation, rather than a narrative description of the factors which you have considered in setting the prices paid.

b. N/A