

NCC-050964-21 Prices paid for homecare services

Dear Requester,

Further to your request for information under The Freedom of Information Act, please see below.

- (a) The **lowest** rate per hour paid to any individual Homecare Provider during the Reference Period, expressed in pounds and pence per hour.

£16.09

- (b) The **highest** rate per hour paid to any individual Homecare Provider during the Reference Period, expressed in pounds and pence per hour.

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- **£21.50**

- (c) 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.

£18.57

- (d) The **total hours** of Homecare purchased from **all** Homecare Providers during the Reference Period.

25,614 hours

- (e) 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).

22,366 hours

- (f) Your organisation’s **total spend** on Homecare Services purchased from **all** Homecare Providers during the Reference Period.

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- Total spend for adults over 65 in the reference period was **£363,937**

- (g) In relation to contracts held with independent and voluntary sector Homecare Providers:

- (i) 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”.

We have not imposed a requirement in the contract that HBC providers pay staff at a rate above statutory national minimum wage.

- (ii) The minimum pay rate specified, in pounds and pence per hour, if the answer to question (g)(i), above, was “Yes”.

- **N/A**

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

- (i) 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”.

- **We have not done numerical calculation on this basis since we did the indicative price for the HBC contracts in 2018.**

- (ii) If your answer to question (h)(i) 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.

- **N/A**

We trust this now satisfies your request, and should you have any further enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me directly on the details below. In addition to this and for future reference Nottingham County Council regularly publishes previous FOIR,s and answers on its website, under Disclosure logs. (see link)

<http://site.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/>

You can use the search facility using keywords.

If you wish to raise any concerns about the way your request was dealt with, then please write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or e-mail foi@nottscc.gov.uk quoting the reference number above.

Kind Regards
Complaints, Information & Mediation Officer.
Complaints and Information Team
Chief Executive’s Dept
Nottinghamshire County Council County Hall,
West Bridgford, Nottingham

Dear Sirs,

Freedom of Information Act 2000: Prices paid for homecare services

The following request is made to Nottinghamshire County Council (“You”, “you” and “your”, as the case may be) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”) by United Kingdom Homecare Association (UKHCA).

UKHCA is the national professional association for homecare providers. UKHCA helps organisations that provide social care (also known as domiciliary care or homecare) to people in their own homes, promoting high standards of care and providing representation with national and regional policy-makers and regulators. The Association represents over 2,300 members across the United Kingdom.

The information requested is described in section 1, below, with definitions of specific terms used in section 2, and notes to aid interpretation in section 3. We draw your attention to why we expect your organisation to comply with this request in section 5. In section 6 we explain how we intend to use the information requested as part of a UK-wide report intended for publication. Section 4 provides details about how to return your reply.

1. The information requested

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.

Your attention is drawn to the interpretation and definitions described in sections 2 and 3.

Reference Period means any period of seven consecutive days which includes Monday, 19 April 2021.

In relation to the **lowest**, **highest** and **average** prices paid to Homecare Providers in questions (a) to (h), you should note that our assumption is that your answers will **include** careworkers' travel time and mileage costs, **unless** you advise us to the contrary. You may, at your discretion, provide any qualifying statements or clarification about the figures returned in your reply to these questions.

3. Selecting the data requested

The following guidance will help you select the correct data sample to complete this request in questions (a) to (h), above.

In case of doubt, you should apply a common sense interpretation to the request outlined in section 1, above.

The data sample used to provide this information should **include**:

- Homecare delivered by independent and voluntary sector Homecare Providers;
- Services delivered to adults aged 65 years and above;
- Services which are primarily designed to provide personal care and support, including prompting people to undertake such activities for themselves.

- The care element (only) of services delivered in 'extra care housing' or 'supported living' schemes (i.e. excluding any payment for providing housing or housing services).

You should **exclude** the following items from the data sample used:

- Services provided to adults under the age of 65 years.
- Services provided primarily to support people with a learning disability or a physical disability.
- Services which are charged by reference to a unit price, other than a price per hour (or part thereof).
- Any payments made directly to people in lieu of the provision of services by your organisation (eg. a direct payment).
- Services provided by any 'in-house' homecare team, where the workforce is employed by your organisation.

4. Replying to this request

Our preferred method to receive the your response is by electronic mail

5. Why we believe you should comply with this request

In addition to your legal obligations to comply with requests made under the Act, the quality of homecare services and the impact of the prices paid by public bodies is a matter of public interest.

We have not asked you to identify any individual or organisation in the data returned and our request therefore poses minimal considerations on grounds of commercial interests and Section 43 of the Act is unlikely to apply.

We believe that all public bodies which commission social care services for older people will hold the data requested in electronic format and therefore we do not believe that the provision of this data could be viewed as onerous.

We therefore do not anticipate that you will have grounds to decline to provide the information requested.

You are advised that UKHCA will report the names of any public body which fails to respond to this request, or which fails to respond within the statutory time limits, to the Information Commissioner's Office where the organisation has failed to respond within the statutory timescales.

6. How we will use this information

UKHCA has made similar requests to: every local authority in England, Wales and Scotland; the health and social care trusts in Northern Ireland; Clinical Commissioning Groups (in England); Local Health Boards (in Wales); and Regional NHS Boards (in Scotland).

UKHCA will produce an aggregated report of the information obtained to provide a consistent picture at national and local level. This report may include your answers to questions (a) to (h) in section 1, above.

We have previously undertaken similar exercises in 2016 and 2018 and our final reports are in the public domain.

We will share our analysis with selected policy-makers and professional journalists in the national and local media and other interested stake-holders, including our membership.

We genuinely appreciate the number of public bodies which comply fully with the legal requirements to provide information under the Act. However, for the avoidance of doubt we advise you of our intention to name those public bodies which do not respond to this request in our reporting. We will also provide details of any public body which does not meet its obligations under the Act to the Information Commissioner's Office.

We therefore look forward to your response within the timescales defined in the Act.
