

22 June 2023

Prices Paid for Homecare Services

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, 17 April 2023.

The information requested is:

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

Starting Monday 17th April 2023 for 7 days - £18.08

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

Starting Monday 17th April 2023 for 7 days - £21.50 for Rapid Response Service (via discharge to assess).

- (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.**

Starting Monday 17th April 2023 for 7 days - £18.13

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

Starting Monday 17th April 2023 for 7 days - 29,269.75 hours

- (e) **The total hours of Homecare purchased from all Homecare Providers during a seven-day period which includes Monday, 18 April 2022 (i.e. the figure which provides a like-for-like comparison with item (d), above, for the previous year).**

Starting Monday 18th April 2022 for 7 days - 21,026.75 hours

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

Starting Monday 18th April 2022 for 7 days - £381,259.59

FOLLOW-UP TO QUESTION (F)

To calculate the total spend in answer to question (f), one could multiply the average price given for (c) by the total hours of homecare purchased in (d). However, this calculation gives a different figure to your answer for (f).

Therefore, would you be able to check your answer to (f)?

22 June 2023

We can revise the answer to question (f) to **£530,660.57** on the basis that the reference period in question is interpreted as starting “Monday 17th April 2023”. When our response was submitted it was assumed that this question followed on from question (e) which noted the reference period as the previous year “Monday 18th April 2022”.

(g) The total number of Care Packages handed back by all Homecare Providers between Friday, 1 April 2022 and Friday, 31 March 2023.

8 Providers
130 Packages
917.2 hours

(h) The total number of Care Packages handed back by all Homecare Providers between Thursday, 1 April 2021 and Thursday, 31 March 2022 (i.e. the figure which provides a like-for-like comparison with item (g), above, for the previous year).

3 Providers
23 Packages
283.35 hours

Questions (a)-(h) refer to Homecare services exclusively. The following questions (i) and (j) relate to all social care services, including Homecare services.

(i) The total number of people aged 65 years and over who were awaiting assessment, review or the start of a care service on Monday, 17 April 2023 (or on a date as close to this as possible).

Awaiting Assessment (30/04/23) = 892
Outstanding Reviews (31/03/23) = 2788
Waiting for start of a Care Service (Unmet need) (30/04/23) = 874

(j) The total number of people aged 65 years and over who were awaiting assessment, review or the start of a care service on Monday, 18 April 2022 (or on a date as close to this as possible) (i.e. the figure which provides a like-for-like comparison with item (i), above, for the previous year).

Awaiting Assessment - We did not collect this information at this time. To obtain this information would require a manual task which would not be achievable within the 18-hour timeframe.

The Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the ‘Appropriate Limit’ as defined by the FOI Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit.

22 June 2023

The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more person spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

Outstanding Reviews (31/03/22) = 4648

Waiting for start of a Care Service (unmet need) (30/04/22) = 839

FOLLOW-UP TO QUESTIONS (I) & (J)

In questions (i) and (j), 'awaiting assessment' refers to a first assessment of a person's care and support needs, while 'awaiting review' refers to those reviews which are overdue (i.e. not reviewed within 12 months).

Is this how you have interpreted the request and, if not, would you be able to provide updated figures?

We gave the unallocated caseloads, which are the cases that have come into the service and have not been allocated. These are service users who have not been reviewed, the only exception in this will be the Care Review and Support Team (CReST) – 157, as these service users will already have had an assessment to transfer to the CReST service.