

Our Ref: ID 1943

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group  
Marriss House  
Hamilton Street  
Birkenhead  
Wirral  
CH41 5AL  
Tel: 0151 651 0011

## Re: Freedom of Information Request - Prices paid for homecare services

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received into this office on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

### You Asked for:

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.

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.
- b. The **highest** rate per hour paid to any individual Homecare Provider during the Reference Period, expressed in pounds and pence per hour.
- 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.
- d. The **total hours** of Homecare purchased from **all** Homecare Providers during the Reference Period.
- 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).
- f. Your organisation's **total spend** on Homecare Services purchased from **all** Homecare Providers during the Reference Period.
- 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".
  - II. The minimum pay rate specified, in pounds and pence per hour, if the answer to question (g)(i), above, was "Yes".
- 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".

- 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.

## Our Response:

After various discussions, it was agreed that NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) would only be able to answer the following questions due to how information is recorded on our system.

- f. £266,400.22 was spent between the period of 19/04/2021 - 25/04/2021.
- g. Please see below:
  - I. No. we used the Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) in which the providers bid on placements. Often, the placements are over our target maximum of £21 per hour so there is no reason for agencies to not pay the National Living Wage (NLW).
  - II. Not applicable.
- h. Please see below:
  - I. No, we used the DPS system in which the providers bid on placements. The target range was £16.50 to £21.00, depending upon the complexity of care. The bottom end of the range was based on the Local Authority LA rate for Tier 1 care.
  - II. Not applicable.

We hope this information is useful, however if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Corporate Affairs Team (contact details at the top of this letter)

## Re- Use of Information

Most of the information that we provide in response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests will be subject to copyright protection. In most cases the copyright will be owned by Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group. The copyright in other information may be owned by another person or organisation, as indicated on the information itself.

You are free to use any information supplied for your own non-commercial research or private study purposes. The information may also be used for any other purpose allowed by a limitation or exception in copyright law, such as news reporting. However, any other type of re-use, for example by publishing the information in analogue or digital form, including on the internet, will require the permission of the copyright owner.

For information where the copyright is owned by Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group please e-mail [foirequests.nhswirralccg@nhs.net](mailto:foirequests.nhswirralccg@nhs.net) to request a reuse licence.

For information where the copyright is owned by another person or organisation you must apply to the copyright owner to obtain their permission.