

FOI 3108

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

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### **Freedom of Information Act 2000: Prices paid for homecare services**

#### **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 and over in their own home during the seven-day Reference Period which includes Monday 14 April 2025.

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

The information requested is:

**Question 1: Please provide:**

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

**Response:**

There is one regionally agreed set rate per hour for Independent Sector Homecare providers of £20.01 for financial year 2024/25 and £21.35 for financial year 2025/26

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

**Response:**

There is one regionally agreed set rate per hour for Independent Sector Homecare providers of £20.01 for financial year 2024/25 and £21.35 for financial year 2025/26

**(c) The average (“arithmetic mean”) rate per hour paid to all Homecare Providers for all Homecare services purchased during the Reference Period, expressed in pounds and pence per hour.**

**Response:**

There is one regionally agreed set rate per hour for Independent Sector Homecare providers of £20.01 for financial year 2024/25 and £21.35 for financial year 2025/26

- (d) The total hours of Homecare purchased from all Homecare Providers during the Reference Period (i.e. any period of seven consecutive days which includes Monday 14 April 2025).**

**Response:**

Total Hours purchased during the reference period 11/04/2025 – 17/04/2025 was 30931 hours

- (e) The total hours of Homecare purchased from all Homecare Providers during a seven-day period which includes Monday 15 April 2024 (i.e. the figure which provides a like-for-like comparison with item (d), above, for the previous year).**

**Response:**

Total hours of Home Care purchased from all Home Care Providers during 12/04/2024 -18/04/2024 was 32918 hours

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

**Response:**

For the reference period 12/04/2024 – 18/04/2024 the spend at the prevailing hourly rate of £20.01 for the purchased hours was £658,689

For the reference period 11/04/2025 – 17/04/2025 the spend at the prevailing hourly rate of £21.35 for the purchased hours was £660,377

- (g) The total number of Homecare Providers that delivered the total hours of Homecare purchased during the Reference Period (as specified in item (d), above).**

**Response:**

PERIOD	NUMBER OF PROVIDERS
11/04/2025-17/04/2025	20
12/04/2024-18/04/2024	20

- (h) The total number of people aged 65 years and over that received Homecare services from Homecare Providers during the Reference Period.**



**Response:**

The total number of people aged 65 years and over that received Homecare services from Homecare Providers during;  
11/04/2025 – 17/04/2025 was 2614.  
12/04/2024 – 18/04/2024 was 2696

- (i) **A brief description of the type of contracts you currently hold with Homecare Providers (i.e. whether they are block contracts, lead provider contracts, framework contracts, spot contracts, etc.).**

**Response:**

We have spot contracts for Home Care and one block contract for a mobile night service.

**Questions (a)-(i) refer to Homecare services. Questions (j) and (k) refer to Direct Payments.**

**Question 2: Please provide:**

- (j) **The 2025-26 rate per hour for a Direct Payment, expressed in pounds and pence per hour. If you have more than one Direct Payment rate per hour, please select the rate paid to a recipient to employ a personal assistant (PA). If you have more than one Direct Payment PA rate per hour, please provide all such rates.**

**Response:**

We only have one rate for Direct Payment the 2025-26 hourly rate is £18.53

- (k) **The total number of adults in receipt of a Direct Payment as of: (I) 1 April 2024 and (II) 1 April 2025 (or dates as close to these as possible).**

**Response:**

The total number of adults in receipt of a Direct Payment;  
As at 31/03/2025 was 278  
As at 31/03/2024 was 227

## **2. Definitions**

**Terms defined below in the singular include the plural, unless otherwise stated.**

***Homecare* should be interpreted as referring to social care and support services delivered in people's own homes. This service may also be known as 'domiciliary care' or 'care at home'.**

**Homecare Provider** refers to an independent or voluntary sector organisation providing Homecare registered by any of the following national statutory regulators:

[Care Quality Commission \(CQC\)](#)

[Care Inspectorate Wales \(CIW\)](#)

[Care Inspectorate](#)

[The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority \(RQIA\)](#)

**Reference Period** means any period of seven consecutive days which includes Monday 14 April 2025.

In relation to the *lowest*, *highest* and *average* prices paid to Homecare Providers in questions (a) to (c), 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.

A **Direct Payment** is a sum of money paid to an individual so that they can arrange their own care and support.

### **3. Selecting the data requested (questions (a) to (i) only)**

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

In case of doubt, you should apply a common-sense interpretation to the request outlined in section 1, above. For example, if you do not hold the requested information specifically for the Reference Period, please provide the information for as close to the Reference Period as possible.

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 over.

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 which are charged by reference to a unit price, other than a price per hour (or part thereof).



Southern Health  
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**Any payments made directly to people in lieu of the provision of services by your organisation (e.g. a direct payment).**

**Services provided by any 'in-house' homecare team, where the workforce is employed by your organisation.**

Email: [Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net)