

FOI 3455

8th December 2025**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

For the purposes of this Freedom of Information Request, domiciliary care and/or home care is defined as social care and support services delivered in peoples own homes.

1. What is the current Department of Health directed hourly rate for the trust to pay to independent providers for the provision of domiciliary care services?

Response:

£21.35 per hour

If applicable please provide rates for the following:

- **Day Rates – Monday - Friday**
- **Unsociable hours / Night rates – please clarify what is deemed to be unsociable hours**
- **Saturday day**
- **Saturday night**
- **Sunday day**
- **Sunday night**
- **Bank Holidays.**

Response:

The Southern Health and Social Care Trust pay the same hourly rate of £21.35 per hour in respect of all of the above.

2. What is the lowest hourly charge rate and highest hourly charge rate the trust has paid to an independent provider in the most recently available 3-month period?

Response:

SHSCT pays regional rate of £21.35 per hour.

3. Please detail what is included in the hourly charge rates detailed in questions 1 and 2 above.

Response:

Provision of a Domiciliary Care Service as per the Regional Domiciliary Care Contract and Service Specification and Domiciliary Care minimum standards.

4. Does the trust pay an additional mileage charge to independent providers for the mileage their workers undertake in addition to the hourly costs detailed above?

Response:

No.

5. If there is a mileage charge in addition to the hourly rate detailed above, does the trust have a standard mileage charge rate for independent providers or can the independent provider set the rate themselves?

Response:

The SHSCT does not pay mileage.

6. If there is a standard allowable mileage charge, could you please provide details of those charges.

Response:

N/A.

7. Does the trust allow for travel time to and from service users home locations to be billed at the standard hourly charge in addition to being charged for the time the caregiver is with the service user providing care in the service user's home.

Response:

No the SHSCT pays time for care at an hourly rate of £21.35.

8. Several responses to previous Freedom of Information requests refer to the fact that the provision of domiciliary care / home care services is open to new independent providers "who meet the criteria" for entering a contract with the Trust. Please detail the criteria the Trust requires a new provider to meet.

Response:

The SHSCT Domiciliary Care / Home Care service provider list is currently closed to new providers.

9. Does the Trust promote/broker their care packages on an IT system, if so, what is it and how do the trust choose between suppliers?

Response:

Although the Southern Trust understands that there is a public interest in being open and transparent, the information including manufacturer, models and replacement timeframes is business sensitive and has the potential to leave the Trust vulnerable to cyber-attacks. By disclosing these details, this information could prejudice and compromise the Trust's network/IT security.



In accordance with Section 31 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Law enforcement – the prevention or detection of crime, such information is exempt from disclosure.

We believe that putting this information into the public domain would make the Trust more vulnerable to cyber-attacks. The public interest in maintaining the security of our systems and providing safe health and social care to our patients/clients outweighs the public interest in disclosure of this information.

10. Who is the main contact within the Trust for assessing service providers who want to be added to the approved list?

Response:

As stated above the provider list is currently closed should this change the Trust will advertise openly stating its requirements.

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net