

FOI 3617

06 March 2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

I am investigating demand for Community Equipment Services (CES), Clinical Wheelchair Services (WCS), Home Improvement Agency (HIA), across the UK. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000/2002, I would like to request the following information relating to the usage of each of these types of service in your area of authority.

1) Community Equipment Services (CES)

a. How is funding and contracting for CES structured within the trust – which body leads on contracting and what proportion of funding is supplied by the local authorities vs from your own budgets?

b. What is the total budget allocated for CES services for the current financial year, and what is the planned budget for the next financial year - if this is not known, can you provide a percentage estimate of whether it will be higher, lower, or unchanged compared with the current budget?

c. What was the total expenditure (£) on CES services by your trust for each of the last three financial years?

d. What proportion of expenditure was on outsourced (i.e. independent sector) service providers for each of the last three financial years?

e. Which independent providers did you use for CES services in the last financial year, and what value of total spending was with each provider? For example, NRS Healthcare, Millbrook Healthcare, Ross Care, Medequip.

f. Is your local CES service shared with other local authorities? If so, please provide a list of these authorities.

No

g. When was the service last tendered, and to when is the current contract expected to run until?

Discuss with contracts regarding regional Framework etc – Probably c 4 hours

2) Clinical Wheelchair Services (WCS)

a. How is funding and contracting for WCS structured in your Local Authority – which body leads on contracting and what proportion of funding is supplied by the local authorities vs from your own budgets?

b. What is the total budget allocated for WCS services for the current financial year, and what is the planned budget for the next financial year - if this is not known, can you provide a percentage estimate of whether it will be higher, lower, or unchanged compared with the current budget?

c. What was the total expenditure (£) on WCS services by your trust for each of the last three financial years?

d. What proportion of expenditure was on outsourced (i.e. independent sector) service providers for each of the last three financial years?

e. Which independent providers did you use for WCS services in the last financial year, and what value of total spending was with each provider? For example, NRS Healthcare, Millbrook Healthcare, Ross Care, AJM Healthcare, Blatchford, Opcare.

f. Is your local WCS service shared with other local authorities? If so, please provide a list of these authorities.

3) Home Improvement Agency/Home Adaptation Services (HIA)

a. How is funding and contracting for HIA structured in your Local Authority – which body leads on contracting and what proportion of funding is supplied by the local authorities vs from your own budgets?

b. What is the total budget allocated for HIA services for the current financial year, and what is the planned budget for the next financial year - if this is not known, can you provide a percentage estimate of whether it will be higher, lower, or unchanged compared with the current budget?

c. What was the total expenditure (£) on HIA services by your trust for each of the last three financial years?

d. What proportion of expenditure was on outsourced (i.e. independent sector) service providers for each of the last three financial years?

e. Which independent providers did you use for HIA services in the last financial year, and what value of total spending was with each provider? For example, Medequip, Millbrook Healthcare.

f. Is your local HIA service shared with other local authorities? If so, please provide a list of these authorities.

g. When was the service last tendered, and to when is the current contract expected to run until?

I am also investigating demand for Technology Enabled Care (TEC) across the UK. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000/2002, I would like to request the following information relating to the usage of each of these types of service by your trust.

Technology Enabled Care (TEC)

I am investigating demand for Technology Enabled Care (TEC, Assistive Technology) across the UK. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000/2002, I would like to request the following information relating to the usage of each of these types of service by the trust.

- a. How is funding and contracting for TEC structured in the trust – which body leads on contracting and what proportion of funding is supplied by the local authorities vs from your own budgets?**
- b. What is the total budget allocated for TEC services for the current financial year, and what is the planned budget for the next financial year - if this is not known, can you provide a percentage estimate of whether it will be higher, lower, or unchanged compared with the current budget?**
- c. What was the total expenditure (£) on TEC services by the trust for each of the last three financial years?**
- d. What proportion of expenditure was on outsourced (i.e. independent sector) service providers for each of the last three financial years?**
- e. Which independent providers did you use for TEC services in the last financial year, and what value of total spending was with each provider?
For example, Tunstall, Millbrook Healthcare/Livity Life, Access.**
- f. Is your local TEC service shared with other local authorities? If so, please provide a list of these authorities.**
- g. When was the service last tendered, and to when is the current contract expected to run until?**

Response:

This information is not recorded centrally nor held in an easily accessible format. In order to provide this information a significant manual trawl of systems from a number of sources/departments is required. The cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. In order to obtain this information, it would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Public Authorities are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

Under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, if you are able to refine your request in an attempt to bring it within the cost limit we will consider it again.

Email: foi.team@southerntrust.hscni.net