

FOI 2210

7th March 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

FOI 2210 Response

My query relates to DLA/PIP entitlements of people living long term in residential care homes who are not self-financing. Whilst the care element of DLA/PIP are surrendered when a recipient enters long term care, they retain the entitlement of the mobility component.

Question 1: How many patients in long term residential care receive this mobility component and of this number how many see their entitlement paid directly to and retained by the Southern Trust?

Response: As of 15th February 2024, 614 clients in long term residential/nursing care are receiving the mobility component of DLA/PIP. Of the 614 clients, 217 had their entitlement paid directly to the Trust. The Trust are in receipt of this income because the Trust acts on behalf of the client in the capacity of Corporate Appointee/Agent. 149 of these clients have their DLA/PIP mobility paid into a personal account which is managed by the trust know as Patients Private Property account.

All clients in long term care, are awarded a weekly Patients Expenses Allowance in accordance with the Charging Residential Accommodation Guidance (CRAG). Where the Trust is in receipt of the client's benefits, clients may choose to have their Patients Expenses Allowance paid to the care home, personal representative, personal bank account or held in Patient Private Property account until required.

Question 2: Also, how many people are receiving the Patients Expenses Allowance and if this number how many spend their full entitlement each month?

Response:

All clients in long term care, are awarded a weekly Patients Expenses Allowance in accordance with the Charging Residential Accommodation Guidance (CRAG).

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide the number of clients that spend their full entitlement each month, as 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.

It has been estimated that it would take more than 18 hours to locate and retrieve the requested information. In order to obtain this information and 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.

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