

FOI 2676

8th October 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Question: Service users at all of the Trust's eight facilities for adults with learning disabilities have been charged for utility bills. The RQIA has confirmed that it queried the practice. The Trust's press team has said the Trust has reimbursed all affected service users.

Can you tell me: How long were users being charged for bills?

Response:

All service users living in supported living accommodation are responsible for paying for the utility bills incurred. Tenants incur charges from the day they become a tenant in the supported living service.

Where the trust has dedicated space within a facility they are required to contribute to the utility costs. The Trust has been contributing to utility charges across these eight facilities since July 2022 and has issued repayments for costs from April 2017.

Question: Were all service users charged or just those who receive full-time care at the facilities?

Response:

All service users living in supported living accommodation are responsible for paying the utility bills incurred. The bills are paid directly by individual service users to the relevant service provider e.g. oil / gas supplier, electricity provider.

Question: How many service users were charged in total?

Response:

All tenants living in supported living are responsible for paying the bill incurred. There are currently approximately 85 service users living in these Trust supported living facilities.

Question: What is the total cost of the bills, broken down per facility?

Response:

SHSCT total utility bills expenditure reimbursed to tenants was £75,213.89.

SHSCT total expenditure reimbursed to tenants per facility, is listed as follows:

Facility	Total Expenditure Repaid to Tenants £
Glanree House	7,602.49
Granville Manor	27,418.27
Orchard House	3,904.63
Bowens Close	12,088.59
Lilburn Hall	8,144.29
Ardaveen	7,989.30
Shanlieve	2,976.53
Teach Sona	5,089.79
Total Expenditure Reimbursed to Tenants	75,213.89

Email: FOI.team@southerntrust.hscni.net