

Our ref: IG/FOI/23.R.155

22 June 2023

Sent via email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information which was received on 11 May 2023, to confirm, in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does not hold the information that you require.

For ease of reference your request is set out below and our response follows:

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request and Powys response:

The following request is made to Powys Teaching Health Board ("You", "you", "Your" and "your", as the case may be) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act") by the Homecare Association.

The Homecare Association is the UK's membership body for homecare providers, with over 2,300 members nationally that deliver social care to people in their own homes. The Homecare Association's mission is to work together to ensure that homecare (also known as domiciliary care) is valued, so that all of us can live well at home and flourish within our communities.

The information requested is described in section 1, below, with definitions of specific terms used in section 2, and notes to aid interpretation in section 3. We draw your attention to why we expect your organisation to comply with this request in section 5. In section 6, we explain how we intend to use the information requested as part of a UK-wide report intended for publication. Section 4 provides details about how to return your reply.

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, 17 April 2023.

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

The information requested is:

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

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

(c) The average ("arithmetic mean") price per hour paid to all Homecare Providers for all hours of Homecare services purchased during the Reference Period, expressed in pounds and pence per hour.

(d) The total hours of Homecare purchased from all Homecare Providers during the Reference Period.

(e) The total hours of Homecare purchased from all Homecare Providers during a seven-day period which includes Monday, 18 April 2022 (i.e. the figure which provides a like-for-like comparison with item (d), above, for the previous year).

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

(g) The total number of Care Packages handed back by all Homecare Providers between Friday, 1 April 2022 and Friday, 31 March 2023.

(h) The total number of Care Packages handed back by all Homecare Providers between Thursday, 1 April 2021 and Thursday, 31 March 2022 (i.e. the figure which provides a like-for-like comparison with item (g), above, for the previous year).

Questions (a)-(h) refer to Homecare services exclusively. The following questions (i) and (j) relate to all social care services, including Homecare services.

(i) The total number of people aged 65 years and over who were awaiting assessment, review or the start of a care service on Monday, 17 April 2023 (or on a date as close to this as possible).

(j) The total number of people aged 65 years and over who were awaiting assessment, review or the start of a care service on Monday, 18 April 2022 (or

on a date as close to this as possible) (i.e. the figure which provides a like-for-like comparison with item (i), above, for the previous year).

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, 17 April 2023.

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.

Care Package refers to the combination of services put together to meet a person's assessed needs after an assessment or review made by a public body.

3. Selecting the data requested

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

In case of doubt, you should apply a common-sense interpretation to the request outlined in section 1, above.

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).
- 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.

Powys Response:

I can confirm that PTHB does not collect this information in a format that would enable us to respond to your request. To answer your question would require a manual trawl of all patients' CHC records for the time period requested and prior to this date. We estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the fees limit of £450 set by the Freedom of Information Act. We estimate that one person would need to spend 3½ working days to determine whether the Health Board holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Health Board is therefore not obliged to comply with this part of your request

Should you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

If you are dissatisfied, with the way your request has been dealt with by PTHB, you have the right to request a review in which case you should write to:

Chief Executive
Powys Teaching Health Board Headquarters
Glasbury House
Bronllys Hospital
Bronllys
Brecon
Powys LD3 0LY

If you are still dissatisfied at the end of the review, you may complain to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office - Wales
2nd Floor,
Churchill House,
Churchill Way,

Cardiff, CF10 2HH

Tel: 029 2067 8400 Fax 029 2067 8399

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yng Nghymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb y fath ohebiaeth yng Nghymraeg ac ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi. We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. We will reply to such correspondence in Welsh and this will not lead to a delay.

Yours sincerely



Joy Garfitt

Director of Operations/Director of Community & Mental Health