



Reference: FOI2845

Request:

3 Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

We ask the council to supply the information requested, as described in this section, with notes to aid interpretation in section 4.

The information we request is described under subheadings 3.1 to 3.2:

3.1 The council's calculation of the cost of homecare

Please provide any calculation undertaken by the council to assess the hourly cost of delivering homecare services for older people during the financial year 2020-21.

For the avoidance of doubt, we ask the council to provide a numerical breakdown of its assessment of what it should pay for a homecare service, taking into account the component costs, which include: careworkers' wages; employers' National Insurance and pension contributions; holiday and sickness pay; mileage reimbursement and the providers' operating costs and profit or surplus.

Please note that this request is for evidence about whether a financial calculation was undertaken and for a copy any such calculation. Please do not provide a narrative description of the council's intentions or its general contractual arrangements.

If such a calculation has not been undertaken (and therefore cannot be provided) please provide a statement to this effect.

The Council has not used a tool to calculate the cost of home care.

However, as part of the procurement process for the award of a new framework contract last year we did consult with providers and the market on a number of areas of service delivery and cost of delivery, this was within the context of unit costs being paid, recruitment and retention issues and affordability. We received good interest from the procurement process and have been able to award contracts with providers to deliver home care services in North Tyneside.

We also have a homecare accreditation process that has the same service rates as the framework that consistently receives interest, with the most recent application in August.

We have applied an inflationary increase of 5% from April 2020 (in line with other care providers) as well as a range of other support measures related to COVID.

3.2 Total spend on homecare

Please provide the following figures:

- a. The total amount of funding the council has received from central government to support social care services in response to COVID-19; \



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Infection Control Grant £2.205m specific to Adult Social Care.

- b. The total additional funding the council has spent on supporting homecare providers with the additional costs of COVID-19, as at 31 July 2020; \

While not being strictly provided to cover additional Covid-19 costs the Council did make some upfront cash flow assistance payments to Homecare providers in April and May. The Council has also made payments totalling £50,809 (covering various periods) to providers for amounts added to their invoices for Covid related expenses. A further £95,124 of claims for Covid-19 costs have been received from Homecare providers. These are currently progressing through the Councils payment processes. NOTE: The figures quoted are for the payments and claims received to date. They do not necessarily cover the period to 31st July and not all Homecare providers have submitted claims.

- c. The total additional funding the council has allocated to support homecare providers with the additional costs of COVID-19, but which has not yet been passed-on to providers by 31 July 2020.\

The Council has approximately £580,000 of the Infection Control Grant remaining. The Council are reviewing how this sum could be most effectively utilised but is available to more than Homecare providers