

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – HOMECARE PROVIDERS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to homecare providers in NHS Lothian.

Question:

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 14 April 2025.

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") rate per hour paid to all Homecare Providers for all 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 (i.e. any period of seven consecutive days which includes Monday 14 April 2025).
- (e) The total hours of Homecare purchased from all Homecare Providers during a seven-day period which includes Monday 15 April 2024 (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 Homecare Providers that delivered the total hours of Homecare purchased during the Reference Period (as specified in item (d), above).
- (h) The total number of people aged 65 years and over that received Homecare services from Homecare Providers during the Reference Period.
- (i) A brief description of the type of contracts you currently hold with Homecare Providers (i.e. whether they are block contracts, lead provider contracts, framework contracts, spot contracts, etc.).

Questions (a)-(i) refer to Homecare services. Questions (j) and (k) refer to Direct Payments.

- (j) The 2025-26 rate per hour for a Direct Payment, expressed in pounds and pence per hour. If you have more than one Direct Payment rate per hour, please select the rate paid to a recipient to employ a personal assistant (PA). If you have more than one Direct Payment PA rate per hour, please provide all such rates.

The total number of adults in receipt of a Direct Payment as of: (I) 1 April 2024 and (II) 1 April 2025 (or dates as close to these as possible)

Answer:

NHS Lothian does not provide homecare or commission homecare providers. This service is provided by the local authorities. The four local authorities covering NHS Lothian's area are the City of Edinburgh Council, East Lothian Council, West Lothian Council and Midlothian Council. You may be able to request further information on the services provided direct from them.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at <https://www.foi.scot/appeal>. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the reviewer at the address at the top of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhslothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive