

FOI 3714

## Older Persons Placement

**Provide information regarding placements and spending for older person's care home services. Provide answers on the attached accompanying Excel spreadsheet.**

Please see response attached.

In reference to Q4, please see exemption below.

### **SECTION 43 (2) COMMERCIAL INTEREST EXEMPTION:-**

The Trust is unable to provide this information. In withholding, the Trust will be applying Section 43 of FOIA Act.

Section 43 of the FOIA allows information to be withheld if the release of the information is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. 'A person' may be an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity. In this regard release of the information is likely to prejudice the Trust's own position as a purchaser in a commercial environment and the Trust is therefore applying Section 43 (2).

Where Section 43(2) is applied, the FOIA requires the Trust to conduct a public interest test where the Trust must consider if it is in the public interest to disclose the information and if not, why this decision has been reached. Where the balance is equal, the Trust will always disclose the information.

### **Factors in favour of disclosing the information:**

- In reviewing the public interest test, the Trust has balanced the need for openness, transparency and accountability in its expenditure of public money.
- The Trust needs to be transparent in its dealings, to assure the public that business is conducted fairly and any decisions taken will withstand public scrutiny and be in keeping with the Trust's legal requirements or internal procedures.

### **Factors in favour of withholding the information:**

- The requirement and expectation of confidentiality voiced by the Trust's supplier.
- The potential to prejudice the commercial interests and give an unfair advantage to potential competitors as voiced by the Trust's supplier.
- The potential to prejudice fair commercial competition in a mixed economy and potentially prejudice the Trust's ability to secure best use of public resources.

Therefore, the Trust concludes the public interest is weighted towards withholding the information.

**FOI 3714 Older Persons Placement**

Health and Social Care Trust:

Date:

<i>Northern Health &amp; Social Care Trust</i>
14/04/2026

<b>1. Who within the Health and Social Care Trust, has the commissioning responsibility for care home placements for older people (aged 65+)? Please provide their:</b>	Name	Job title	Telephone no.	Email address
	Neil Martin	Director of Strategic Planning, Performance and ICT	(028) 9442 4326	<a href="mailto:Neil.Martin@northerntrust.hscni.net">Neil.Martin@northerntrust.hscni.net</a>

<b>2. Please provide the gross total expenditure on older person's (age 65+) services for financial year 2023/24, 2024/25 (actual) and financial year 2025/26 (projected):</b>	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 (projected)
a. Gross total expenditure on older person's (65+) services	£360,901	£377,685	Note 3
b. Gross total expenditure on residential home placements (65+)	£41,441	£44,351	
c. Gross total expenditure on nursing home placements (65+)	£94,504	£108,251	
d. Gross total expenditure on domiciliary care/home care (65+)	£71,018	£77,100	

**Caveats**

1 The costs provided for 2023/24 and 2024/25 are sourced from Programme of Care 4 (Elderly) reported in the Trust's Statutory Costing Financial Returns (CFR). The reporting period for each year refers to 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> March.

2 The Trust's Management Accounts are collated by service, and the Trust does not have a service called "Older People's Services". Costs supplied in a) are CFR Programme of Care 4 total expenditure which includes Hospital, Community & Personal Social Services and is inclusive of costs in b, c & d.

3 Costing submissions for 2025/26 are not due for completion until autumn, therefore it is not possible to provide 2025/26 information at this stage without considerable manual work which would take circa 5 days.

4 These costs are fully absorbed, meaning that they include direct, indirect, overheads and capital charges.

5 These costs represent actual expenditure including any non-recurrent expenditure.

6 As services are not always organised within Trusts on a Programme of Care basis there is always an element of apportionment and mapping of costs to allow reporting at Programme of Care level. This means that some services may be recorded in different programmes of care in Trusts, as such there may be some services provided to 65+ Patients that may not be captured within the Elderly Programme

7 Consequently, we urge caution in any consideration of comparability of cost bases across other regions outside of NI.

<b>3. Please provide figures for the total number of older people (aged 65 and over) that the Health and Social Care Trusts has funded during the financial years 2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26 (projected). This should include both new placements made during each year and ongoing placements funded by the Health and Social Care Trusts:</b>	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 (projected)
a. Residential care			
b. Residential dementia care			
c. Nursing care			
d. Nursing dementia care			
e. Domiciliary care/home care			

Information not held.

<b>4. Please provide the total number of adults (aged 18-64) with a primary need of dementia (including early-onset dementia), funded by the Health and Social Care Trust, receiving long-term nursing care in a care home, for the financial year 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 (projected), broken down by the following weekly fee bands</b>	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
a. Under £2,000 per week			
a. Over £2,000 per week			

The finance systems do not hold details in relation to service user ages and details of early-onset dementia, to do this it would mean staff would have to cross reference this across manual document and electronic systems. This would equate to more than the 18 hours of staff time to complete this work. Therefore the Trust is applying Section 12 (1) of the FOIA, which states that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request, if the staff time taken to determine whether the information is held, locating, retrieving and extracting the information, would exceed 18 hours (at a cost exceeding £450).

<b>5. Please provide a list of all providers with which the Health and Social Care Trust is funding older people (aged 65+) with dementia receiving nursing care in care homes, where the cost of care exceeds £2,000 per week</b>	Provider 1	Provider 2	Provider 3	Provider ...
The Northern Trust is unable to respond to this as it includes commercially sensitive information relating to providers within the market. Releasing this information would show how much the Trust pays to individual providers for a certain cohort of service users that would not be known by others, and if put into the public domain under the Freedom of Information Act will be known to competitors. Release may be prejudicial to the commercial interests of the provider and advantageous to rivals. Disclosure of this information may compromise the Department's and Trust's ability to achieve value for money from its future contracts and ultimately lead to less effective use of public money. Please refer to Commercial Interest Exemption attached.				

<b>6. Please provide the average (mean) weekly fees paid for care home placements for older people (aged 65+) in financial year 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 (projected):</b>	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 (projected)
a. Older person's residential placement	738.79	806.30	917.61
b. Older person's residential dementia placement	746.02	834.01	895.73
c. Older person's nursing placement	931.87	1,067.56	1,233.05
d. Older person's nursing dementia placement	906.75	996.76	1,071.04

<b>7. Please provide the set or banded weekly fees paid for care home placements for older people (aged 65+) in financial year 2022/23 and 2023/24:</b>	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 (projected)
b. Residential dementia care	697	752	811
c. Nursing care	865	925	990
d. Nursing dementia care	865	925	990
e. Domiciliary care/home care			

<b>8. Please provide the proposed average percentage uplift to the weekly rate paid by the Health and Social Care Trusts between 2024/25 and 2025/26:</b>	2024/25 to 2025/26
a. Older person's residential placement	7.85%
b. Older person's residential dementia placement	7.85%
c. Older person's nursing placement	7.03%
d. Older person's nursing dementia placement	7.03%