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Our ref: 28639

Direct Line: 01384 816546

Date: 08/08/2022

Dear Fraser Rickatson,

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Information Request 28639

I acknowledge your request for information received on 09/05/2022. Our response is as follows.

Your Request and Our Response

Your request is provided in black type and our response is detailed in-line in blue type.

Regarding the Council's response to question 2:

Where individuals can be identified, this information has been redacted from the letter.

This is because the information you have requested is exempt from disclosure under provisions of the Act.

The exemption applied is Section 40(2) by virtue of section 40(3)(A)(i) of the Freedom of Information Act i.e. it is personal information of a living individual, where the disclosure would be in breach of the first principle of the General Data Protection Regulation Article 5,1(a).

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a partial **Refusal Notice**.

Under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the information we are able to provide is detailed below.

Q1: Please complete the following table for Residential and Nursing Care Home Fees for people over the age of 65:

Notes:

- **All fees should exclude FNC and Top-Up payments but include any other resident contributions which make up the Local Authority fee.**

- **Minimum fee is the lowest base, starting rate or lowest rate paid for each care type.**
- **Maximum fee is the highest fee or cap to any fee or rate paid for each care type.**
- **Average fee is the average weekly fee paid during the month of April 2022 for each care type.**
- **Number of placements is the number of residents who make up the average fee by care type.**
- **Where different care types are used, such as care bandings, tier rates, or other fee structures, the minimum, maximum and average fee should be provided for the alternative care type used – see Q3 below.**

Care Type	Minimum or base weekly 2022/23 Fee	Maximum weekly 2022/23 fee (if fees form part of a range)	Date fee was last uplifted*	Average weekly fee paid for all residents during April 2022	Number of placements the Average fee relates to
Nursing	471.80	N/A	4/4/2022	£818.52	320
Nursing with Dementia	512.82	N/A	4/4/2022	Do not hold data for Dementia split	N/A
Residential (without Nursing)	471.80	N/A	4/4/2022	£555.36	584
Residential (without Nursing) with Dementia	512.82	N/A	4/4/2022	Do not hold data for Dementia split	N/A

*If Fees have not yet been uplifted for 2022/23, please state the planned or estimated date of the 2022/23 annual fee uplift.

Please note that the rates are based on data ran at the end of May 2022 for June outturn. The Council does not hold data as at April 2022 due to closedown, this is the earliest snapshot available for 2022/23.

Q2: Please provide a copy of your 2022/23 fee uplift letter sent to providers outlining your approach to inflation, the decision regarding the uplift, and what the rates and/or percentage uplifts are. Where you have not yet offered a fee uplift for 2022/23, please state when this will be communicated, and who we can contact at that time to request a copy of the uplift letter/correspondence. If you were an authority which brought forward your uplift for 2022/23, please indicate this and provide the letter explaining the approach to providers.

Please see the attached letter (PDF format).

Q3: Where you operate banded/tier rates or have multiple, or a range of rates for each care type, please indicate as such and provide the rate bandings or ranges and a link or explanation to how these are applied. Where possible this should follow the format in Q1 for Minimum, Maximum, Average and the number of placements.

N/A

Q4: Please outline your approach to care homes paying the National Living Wage, Real Living Wage or any other local variations or premiums associated to Care home staff pay and how this impacts the care provider in respect of the rates paid should they adopt different pay structures directed by the Council and if they choose not to do so.

Please see the details in the uplift letter in addition to the information published here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/market-sustainability-and-fair-cost-of-care-fund-2022-to-2023-guidance/market-sustainability-and-fair-cost-of-care-fund-2022-to-2023-guidance>

Q5: To avoid further FOI's, please provide a link to your website we can share with members where information relating to care home fees are published.

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No information held.

We would like to sincerely apologise for the delay in completing the Council's response.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a comment or complaint, or request a review of the decision, you should write to the Freedom of Information Officer at Dudley MBC, The Council House, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 1HF, telephone 0300 555 2345, e-mail information.governance@dudley.gov.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Dudley MBC.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 0303 123 1113
www.ico.org.uk

Our ref: [REDACTED] Service: Integrated Commissioning Hub Direct Line: [REDACTED] Date: 10th March 2022

E-mail: Commissioning.DACHS@dudley.gov.uk

OUR REF: EXTERNALLY COMMISSIONED RESIDENTIAL AND NURSING CARE RATES FOR 2022/23

Dear Provider

In advising of the uplift decision for 2022/23 we feel it is important to acknowledge the current social care market pressures.

We appreciate that costs associated with delivering care continue to rise year on year. Many providers have voiced this to the council via calls, emails, letters and through our Market surveys in 2020 and 2022. Most notable of the pressures are the impact of the National Minimum Wage, the Covid Pandemic, Brexit impact; combined with general inflation and continuing rising costs for energy and workforce pressures. These create significant challenges for the social care market and for the council in supporting the market.

Throughout the last 2 years and up to the end of March 2022 the council has facilitated the administration and passporting of Infection Control and Workforce Grants to support the market, alongside reactive support to the Dudley social care market with regard to Covid outbreaks, staffing and general care pressures.

In determining the uplift for 2022/2023 the council has taken the above factors into consideration. The uplift is determined by the council based on a number of factors outlined in this letter.

Adult Social Care has been recognised corporately within Dudley MBC as a priority area for investment with an additional £2m investment into commissioned services being agreed by Full Council in March.

RESIDENTIAL CARE & NURSING CARE RATES FOR 2022-2023

The older adult nursing and residential care home base rate will have the below percentage increase applied from 4th April 2022. Please note any negotiated costs and top ups are not included in this increase.



Financial Year	% increase	Standard Weekly Fee from 4/04/2022-02/04/2023
2022/23	3.5%	£471.80
Mental health Premium		Standard Weekly Fee from 4/04/2022-02/04/2023
2022/23	3.5%	£41.02

The Council no longer manages any payment in connection with the FNC contribution. Communication on FNC fees will be advised by the CCG directly to providers.

Respite

As per the current residential and nursing contract, respite will continue to be funded at the respective standard minimum rate plus an additional 5%.

Dudley MBC remain committed to working with providers to look at options that will enable the most effective and efficient delivery to sustain providers and deliver quality care to Dudley Citizens.

The Dudley Market stocktake 2022 survey issued in early February has provided useful cost of care market information that has been considered, this information will continue to influence decisions and how we can best support social care providers. Further work on the cost of care will take place in 2022/23 as part of the National Programme in the Adult Social Care Reform White Paper.

Hopefully you will be aware that we are currently working on pilots that will support the Dudley Residential and Nursing homes exploring banded care options with set banded rates that reflect complexity and quality. It is planned that this would be rolled out to the wider market through a formal framework in the next 12 -18 months further aiding sustainability and care quality.

If you would like to hear more about this, please contact

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the citizens of Dudley and in particular you and your staff on the ground who have been supporting our most vulnerable people in the community.

Yours Sincerely

Head of Access & Prevention and Interim Head of Commissioning, Performance and Partnerships

