



London Borough of Camden
Information and Records
Management
Judd Street
London.
WC1H 9JE
e-mail:
foi@camden.gov.uk

Date: 07/06/2022

Case reference: CAM3313

Dear Requester

Thank you for your request for information dated 06/05/2022 about residential and nursing care home fees for people over the age of 65. We have dealt with this under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

The council holds the information requested. However we are withholding some of the information because it is exempt as explained below. We have explained where we are withholding information and what exemptions apply. Please see the refusal notices at the end of the answers which explain how and why they apply.

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

Please see attached excel workbook.

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.

2022/23 uplift letters are enclosed.

The 5 North Central London boroughs have undertaken a joint approach to inflationary uplifts in order to continue building a fair and sustainable local market. Care Analytics were commissioned to analyse existing provision and recommend "minimal sustainable price" brackets for residential and nursing care provision.

On this basis, providers were either offered a blanket cash uplift of £30 p/w for residential and £38 p/w for nursing provision or the opportunity to submit a workbook demonstrating any cost pressures specific to their organisation which would justify the need for a further increase:

- Below “minimum sustainable price” = Increase to minimal sustainable price OR uplift by £30 p/w residential / £38 nursing (no workbook required)
- Within new bandings = Uplift by £30 p/w residential / £38 nursing (no workbook required) Workbook for all requests above this level and capped at £40 p/w residential / £50 p/w nursing.
- Above new bandings = Workbook for all requests and capped at £40 p/w residential / £50 p/w nursing

The council has redacted parts of the information in these letters under the absolute exemption in Section 40 (2). The information withheld is personal information because it allows a living individual to be identified. We have considered the legitimate public interest in disclosure against the interests of the data subject/s and concluded that disclosure would contravene the principle in the General Data Protection Regulation that personal data is processed fairly and lawfully. In the circumstances of the case disclosure would not be fair to the individuals particularly considering that Freedom of Information responses are public documents and published to the world and not provided just to the requester.

With regards to staff names and contact details we are withholding this as we consider section 40(2) applies. We supply the names and contact details of senior staff in the top three tiers of the local authority from Assistant Director and up all other staff would be classed as relatively junior positions within the council and they would have no expectation that their details would be released into the public domain

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.

The following bandings were identified by Care Analytics as representing a fair cost of care for North Central London:

21/22 inner London

Residential general - £670-840 (10% increase in min sustainable price)

Nursing general / dementia - £850-1010 (19% increase in min sustainable price)

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.

The Council has a long term block arrangement with one in-borough provider for 120 beds of residential and nursing care provision, there is a commitment for all staff to be paid LLW through this contract. Two further providers are commissioned to provide nursing care, both of which are committed to paying NLW as a minimum.

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.

n/a

Further Information

We do not give our consent for any names and contact details provided in this response to be sent marketing material. Any such use will be reported to the ICO as a breach of General Data Protection Regulations and the Privacy and Electronic Communication Regulations.

Why not check our Portal [Open Data Camden](#) before making a new request as your question may already be answered by a previous [FOI response](#) or in one of our many useful and interesting datasets.

Your Rights

If you are not happy with how your response was handled you can request an Internal Review within 2 months of this letter by email to foireviews@camden.gov.uk or post: Information and Records Management Team, London Borough of Camden, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE. Please quote your case reference number. If you are not satisfied with the Internal Review outcome you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office at casework@ico.org.uk telephone 0303 123 1113, or post to Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. The ICO website www.ico.org.uk may be useful.

Yours sincerely,

Tanya Bryant
Information Rights Officer

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*
Nursing	£524.08	£2,287.86	In progress, uplifts to be backdated to 01/04/2022
Nursing with Dementia	Data not held	Data not held	
Residential (without Nursing)	£418.92	£3,846.87	In progress, uplifts to be backdated to 01/04/2022
Residential (without Nursing) with Dementia	Data not held	Data not held	

Average weekly fee paid for all residents during April 2022	Number of placements the Average fee relates to
£869.45	142
Data not held	Data not held
£894.93	283
Data not held	Data not held

Dear Provider,

Our continued commitment to paying a fair and sustainable price for care

As we arrive at two years since the start of the pandemic, we would like to thank all providers for your incredibly hard work and commitment to protecting residents, supporting staff and maintaining high quality services.

We appreciate that this has not been easy, and we have endeavoured to support you wherever possible through funding streams, guidance, information and support from many different professionals.

The financial climate for local government and in particular for social care continues to be extremely challenging with a high level of uncertainty. We also know that there are very real cost pressures for care providers, with relatively high inflation, an increase in the National Living Wage and increased costs for basic goods and services.

To ensure there is a sustainable care market across North Central London, the five councils¹ have undertaken a detailed cost analysis for older adult care homes. The cost modelling takes into account the cost implications of running an efficient, sustainable and quality care service, as well as the cost pressures faced by providers.

Looking ahead to the next financial year, as always, we request to work in partnership with you to ensure that your high-quality services are affordable and sustainable for all parties.

This year's uplifts process

As part of this year's uplift process, we would like to draw your attention to the following two factors:

1. We will be offering a **cash rather than percentage uplift**.
 - Through our cost modelling we have identified this as the fairest way to recognise true cost increases per person per bed
 - This will help ensure the uplifts are used directly to cover areas identified such as staff pay and increases in utility costs

2. We will be asking for an agreement from you on a new spot rate for 22/23 before agreeing any uplift. This spot rate will be for most 'standard' placements as defined in the appendix and will apply to placements from all NCL boroughs. We have calculated a proposed spot rate based on our evidence around a sustainable cost of care in North Central London, while acknowledging that we remain under an obligation to obtain value for money when commissioning placements in care homes. The reasons for this are:
 - To support greater consistency of pricing and ensure that providers are getting paid a sustainable rate

¹ London Boroughs of Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington

- To provide greater financial certainty for both councils and providers over the year
- To improve the process of securing new placements, saving time and resources on individual negotiations for both providers and councils

Please note that this process relates to ongoing operational costs and does not cover:

- Increases due to changes in the assessed needs of the person or persons placed with you. This will need to be raised with and reviewed by relevant social care professionals who can be contacted at localitydutyteam@camden.gov.uk
- Additional costs due to Covid19, for which grants and government funding have been made available.

Our uplift offer to you

Based on our cost modelling, we believe that your current placement costs are sufficient to continue providing a quality and sustainable service with a reasonable surplus.

Additional uplift requests

If there are specific circumstances facing your organisation which you believe would necessitate a higher increase, for example that you would experience financial hardship, then the Council will consider proposals from you.

- If this is the case, then please complete and return the enclosed template to **SECTION 40(2)** by **Wednesday 6th April**.
- We are using the same template across the NCL to ease the burden on providers.
- The workbook asks for a detailed breakdown of costs and a chance to provide evidence of where the proposed uplift will be insufficient.
- All submissions must be accompanied by a list of the ID/ initials and date of birth for each of the residents the request relates to.

The information you provide will help the council to consider and analyse the cost pressures you face and respond to your uplift request accordingly. We will require you to be open and transparent about the basis for this position. The council will evaluate the evidence you submit and reserves the right to reject this, particularly where it does not directly relate to the service we commission.

Any uplifts agreed by the panel will be backdated to 1st April 2022.

A note on joint working between the councils and other organisations

As the five North Central London councils we work closely to promote the efficient and effective operation of a market in services for meeting care and support needs.

The expectation around agreed spot rates for 22/23 are that this will **apply across all five NCL councils**.

We have commissioned the cost modelling exercise as a collective and will be sharing information on uplift requests and pursuing joint conversations where there are multiple placements from across each of our boroughs. Each borough will be making their own decisions based on the evidence presented and shared.

We also work closely with the CCG especially where there are shared care homes used by multiple organisations.

Next steps

If you are happy to accept the proposed uplift **AND** spot rate for 22/23, please respond to this letter by **Thursday 31st March 2022**.

If you are submitting a workbook / business case these must be completed and returned by **Wednesday 6th April 2022**. Requests made after this date will not be considered and no uplifts will be awarded.

Please note that any block bed arrangements have separate terms and conditions and do not need to complete the above process

Thank you again for all your work and engagement

Yours faithfully,

SECTION 40(2)

SECTION

Strategic Commissioner – Adults' Commissioning

Dear Provider,

Our continued commitment to paying a fair and sustainable price for care

As we arrive at two years since the start of the pandemic, we would like to thank all providers for your incredibly hard work and commitment to protecting residents, supporting staff and maintaining high quality services.

We appreciate that this has not been easy, and we have endeavoured to support you wherever possible through funding streams, guidance, information and support from many different professionals.

The financial climate for local government and in particular for social care continues to be extremely challenging with a high level of uncertainty. We also know that there are very real cost pressures for care providers, with relatively high inflation, an increase in the National Living Wage and increased costs for basic goods and services.

To ensure there is a sustainable care market across North Central London, the five councils¹ have undertaken a detailed cost analysis for older adult care homes. The cost modelling takes into account the cost implications of running an efficient, sustainable and quality care service, as well as the cost pressures faced by providers.

Looking ahead to the next financial year, as always, we request to work in partnership with you to ensure that your high-quality services are affordable and sustainable for all parties.

This year's uplifts process

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2. We will be asking for an agreement from you on a new spot rate for 22/23 before agreeing any uplift. This spot rate will be for most 'standard' placements as defined in the appendix and will apply to placements from all NCL boroughs. We have calculated a proposed spot rate based on our evidence around a sustainable cost of care in North Central London, while acknowledging that we remain under an obligation to obtain value for money when commissioning placements in care homes. The reasons for this are:
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- Additional costs due to Covid19, for which grants and government funding have been made available.

Our uplift offer to you

We would like to offer you an uplift of £30 for residential care / £38 for nursing care per person per week.

As part of this process the host borough will be in touch about agreeing a new spot rate for standard placements.

Based on our modelling this rate is fair and sufficient to provide a quality service and recognises the costs of inflation. If this is acceptable, please let us know by responding to this letter.

Additional uplift requests

If there are specific circumstances facing your organisation which you believe would necessitate a higher increase, for example that you would experience financial hardship, then the Council will consider proposals from you.

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