

22 August 2022

Information Rights & Compliance Team  
99 Waverley Road  
St Albans  
Hertfordshire  
AL3 5TL

Tel: 01727 804954  
Email: [Hpkt.foi@nhs.net](mailto:Hpkt.foi@nhs.net)

Our Ref: FOI/04413

Thank you for your request concerning Supported Living Costs.

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

**1. Please can you provide information on the hourly rates you are currently paying for Supported Living in the county, across all of your providers?**

The Trust considers the disclosure of hourly rates paid for supported living in the county across all providers to be commercially sensitive under Section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Information is exempt if disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person, including the public authority holding the information.

This is a qualified exemption and therefore subject to the public interest test. We have considered the reasons for and against disclosure below:

**Reason in favour of disclosure**

There is considerable interest in ensuring the Trust is transparent about its spending of public money at a time when public finances are under considerable scrutiny.

**Reason against disclosure**

The Trust is obliged to protect its negotiating position in a competitive environment to ensure value for money in securing the best rate for future placements. Providing the hourly rate could prejudice our bargaining position and give a competitor an unfair advantage in terms of securing future contracts.

We reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this breakdown under Section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

**2. Additionally, please can you provide information on what uplifts you have awarded your supported living providers over the last three years?**

We have also applied 43 (2) to providing information on uplifts awarded to our supported living providers over the last three years for the same reasons detailed under question 1.

Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please find enclosed an information sheet regarding copyright protection and the Trust's complaints procedure in the event that you are not satisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely

*Sue Smith*

**Sue Smith**  
**Information Rights Officer**

Enc: Copyright Protection and Complaints Procedure Information Leaflet.

If you would like to complete a short survey in relation to your Freedom of Information request please scan the QR code below or click [here](#).

