

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001003
Date 27 March 2017

Social Care Providers

Request:

I am requesting the following information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

Please note the term “social care providers” refers to adult care services including care homes and domiciliary care.

1. How many social care providers tendered to provide services funded by your local authority in each of the last three years?
2. How many social care providers with an existing contract to provide services funded by your local authority chose **not** to re-tender in each of the last three years?
3. How many social care providers, providing services funded by your local authority, prematurely withdrew from their contract in each of the last three years? Please provide the reasons for these withdrawals.
4. How many social care providers, providing services funded by your local authority, went out of business during the course of their contract in each of the last three years?
5. In each of the last three years, how many social care providers who successfully re-tendered to provide domiciliary care services did so with a reduced number of contracted care hours? For each contract, what was the total reduction in the number of contracted care hours?

In response to your above questions, following careful consideration the Council regrets to inform you that it has decided not to disclose this information.

Information you have requested has been withheld from disclosure. The exemption engaged is Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000(FOI).

Section 12 of the FOI exempts Public Authorities from providing information where the estimated cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Any estimate must be undertaken in accordance with the limits set in fees regulations made under Section 12 (5) of the FOI.

These Fees Regulations (SI 2004/3244 Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations) allow for a refusal where the cost of compliance, for local authorities such as the Council, would exceed £450. As a guide, staff time to identify and extract this information is charged at a rate of £25 per hour.

In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

- “(a) determining whether it holds the information,*
- (b) locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- (c) retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
and
- (d) extracting the information from a document containing it”.*

In summary to provide the information you have requested it would take us longer than 18 hours to compile as we do not record this type of information centrally and therefore we would have to carry out a manual trawl (scrutinise) of over 130 service providers for domiciliary care split over 40 contracts alone.

However under Section 16 (duty to provide advice and assistance) we have provided below the link to our contracts register which we hope you will find useful.

<https://wolverhamptoncouncil.accordcontracts.com/freedom-of-information/contracts>