



## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 0815116  
Date            21 August 2015

### ***Homecare and the Care Act***

#### **Request:**

- a) Has your council taken steps to ensure that your homecare service providers are paying care workers at least the National Minimum Wage now that the Care Act has come into force?  
*The National Minimum Wage is a statutory requirement; therefore there is an expectation that Provider's pay the National Minimum Wage.*
- b) Please list the steps that your council has taken to ensure that your service providers are paying care workers at least the National Minimum Wage now that the Care Act has come into force.  
*As part of the annual review meetings, Providers were asked to confirm they pay the National Minimum Wage – All Domiciliary Care Provider's confirmed they did.*
- c) Following the Care Act coming into force, do you now make it a contractual condition that your homecare providers pay their care workers for their travel time?  
*No*
- d) Does your council commission homecare visits of 15 minutes (or less)?  
*Wolverhampton commission packages of care which include visits by paid carers for periods of less than half an hour. These brief visits are specifically to undertake tasks which can be reasonably expected to take the fifteen minutes allocated. These tasks usually, but not exclusively, relate to the oversight of a service user taking prescribed medication. The relationship between paid carers, their employing provider agencies and our Brokerage team is one which allows flexibility for paid carers to respond appropriately to a service user whose needs may require a longer visit on a given day.*