Dear Ms/Ms Roselate,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1322034

Thank you for your request dated 9 April 2021 in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

“It was announced on 30 March 2021, that thirteen charities that support disabled people will gain £2.4 million of additional government funding. Please could you:

1) Provide breakdown exactly how this money is divided between the named charities (Sense, RNIB, RNID, NDTi, Scope, Leonard Cheshire, Mencap, National Autistic Society, British Institute of Learning Disability, Contact, Respond, Learning Disability England, Challenging Behaviour Foundation)

2) Clarify how these were the charities to be awarded - e.g. an application process? Payment for services rendered?”

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

For ease of reference, we have separated the individual elements of your request.

1) Provide breakdown exactly how this money is divided between the named charities (Sense, RNIB, RNID, NDTi, Scope, Leonard Cheshire, Mencap, National Autistic Society, British Institute of Learning Disability, Contact, Respond, Learning Disability England, Challenging Behaviour Foundation)

DHSC holds the information you requested. Please see the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARITY</th>
<th>GRANT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>British Institute for Learning Disability</td>
<td>£31,316.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenging Behaviour Foundation</td>
<td>£41,378.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td>£25,567.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Disability England</td>
<td>£5,203.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonard Cheshire</td>
<td>£187,937.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2) Clarify how these were the charities to be awarded - e.g. an application process? Payment for services rendered?

DHSC holds the information you requested.

**Grant Extensions**

Of the £2.4 million in new funding awarded in March 2021, £417,720.65 was allocated to seven charities as an extension to existing grant awards made as part of a £750 million Government fund announced in Spring 2020 to ensure voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations could continue their vital work supporting the country during the coronavirus outbreak.

These seven grants were initially awarded for a period of six months and came to an end at 31 October 2020. The original grant funding was awarded to organisations for the provision of direct COVID-19 related support to autistic people, people with a learning disability and their families and carers to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on them and to alleviate pressures on statutory services throughout the pandemic. These charities were: British Institute for Learning Disability (BILD), Challenging Behaviour Foundation (CBF), Contact, Learning Disability England (LDE), Mencap, National Autistic Society (NAS) and Respond.

We allocated £417,720.65 to extend the grant funding to these seven charities through to the end of the 2020/21 financial year for the COVID-19 support they continued to provide during these months. Each of these charities were invited to apply to be reimbursed for costs incurred relating to their COVID-19 support services between 1 November 2020 and 31 March 2021. All seven organisations applied and were successful in securing extensions to their grants.

**New Grants**

We approached organisations from the Disability Charities Consortium (DCC) and the Health and Wellbeing Alliance (HWBA) regarding this funding opportunity, inviting applications for grants to reimburse costs incurred by these organisations in providing direct, national COVID-19 related support to disabled people and their families throughout the pandemic to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on them and to alleviate pressures on statutory services throughout the pandemic. These organisations were approached due to their unique capacity to provide targeted support at scale to disabled people across the country, thus ensuring the grant funding would have maximum impact in terms of the numbers of disabled people supported nationally.

We received six applications for new grants from: Leonard Cheshire, National Development Team for Inclusion, Royal National Institute of Blind People, Royal National Institute for Deaf People, Scope and Sense. Applications were assessed rigorously against set criteria to ensure the...
activities funded were a direct result of the pandemic and either provided key services specific to supporting the COVID-19 response, including reducing the burden on the NHS or other public services, or provided critical frontline services to disabled people, their families and carers affected by COVID-19 and associated measures. Each of these organisations was successful in securing a grant.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to appeal by asking for an internal review. This should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter and sent to FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk, or to the address at the top of this letter.

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

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO). Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response and received our internal review decision. You should raise your concerns with the ICO within three months of your last meaningful contact with us.

The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner’s Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

https://ico.org.uk/concerns/

Yours sincerely,

Hazel Percy
Freedom of Information Officer
E: freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk