

Ms Belinda Schwehr

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Rachel Sawyer
Southport Town Hall,
Lord Street,
Southport,
Merseyside, PR8 1DA.
Tel: ???

Email: replytoxxxx@xxxxxx.xxx.x

Date: 23 April 2021

Our reference: 6092173

Dear Ms Schwehr

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information that was received on 22 March 2021 concerning 1. How many individuals is the local authority acting as an appointee for, please?

2. How many of these individuals (in area or out of area) pays adult social care charges to the council for non-residential services?

3. Which department is responsible for administering appointeeship?

4. Which department is responsible for assessing social care charges?

5. How many officers in either department carry out an overlapping role with regard to appointeeship and care charges?

6. How many times has the appointeeship team responded to a consultation on behalf of individuals or any group of benefits claimants regarding a change in the council's charging policy, since 2015?

7. How many appeals about care charges has the appointeeship team submitted to the financial assessment team since 2015?

8. How many complaints has the appointeeship team submitted regarding care charges since 2015?

9. How many times has the appointeeship team sought or referred individuals they act for, to independent advice (whether third sector, legal aid or privately funded) about care charges, since 2015?

10. How many times has the appointeeship team questioned the accuracy, fairness or legal validity of individuals' care charges or the council's charging policy, since 2015?

11. Does the council treat appointeeship as a Care Act service? If so, does it charge for that as part of the Care Act charging system?

12. How much does it charge, if it makes a charge, per month or per week or per year, please?

13. If appointeeship is not provided for through the Care Act, does the council allow for a DRE deduction from Disability Benefits income, for the charge it makes for appointeeship (assuming a person is otherwise chargeable)?

14. If the council does not operate appointeeships for adult social care clients, does the council permit a full DRE deduction from Disability Benefits income, for any charge levied by any other corporate or private appointee (assuming a person is otherwise chargeable)?

15. In respect of all council clients who are currently in receipt of adult social care services, regarded as liable to pay a charge for their adult social care services, for whom the appointee role is currently undertaken - how is the relevant department holding the appointeeship responsibility proposing to manage the conflict of interest presented by the judgment in the Norfolk CC v SH case in December 2020, given that the decision means that other similar policies are presumptively unlawful? Please answer with a sentence or a paragraph; it is suggested that it is not a proper response to say that no decisions have been made, as yet, because the problem already exists.

I can confirm that the information requested is held by Sefton Council. I have enclosed copies of the information that is being released to you.

Please quote the reference number 6092173 in any future communications about this request.

Section 17 (7) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act states that public authorities must provide applicants with details of how they may complain about the handling of their request for information should they wish to. If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been dealt with then you can request an internal review within 40 days of receiving our response. This should be directed to the Information Management and Governance Lead, 1st Floor, Magdalen House, 30 Trinity Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 3NJ or email: infoxxxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxx.xx.

Should you choose to request a review of the decision taken and are dissatisfied following the authority's review, you are entitled under Section 17 (7) (b) of the Act to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision notice. Further information can be found at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.org.uk

- [I will now close your request as of this date.](#)

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[Yours sincerely](#)

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[Rachel Sawyer](#)
[Assistant Admin Team Manager](#)

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