

Callum Flinn

8 December 2016

Our ref: IR178765

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information received on 2 November 2016.

This request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

*1. The number of individuals receiving a Direct Payment for Domiciliary Care through an Agency*  
We do not keep this information. A very small number of Direct Payment (DP) users use an agency.

*2. The number of Individuals receiving a Direct Payment to employ a Personal Assistant*  
We currently have 586 DP user and the majority employs a Personal Assistant.

*3. The councils spend on Domiciliary care in the last financial year*  
The Council spent £13,719,000 on domiciliary care for adults over 18. This does not include domiciliary care paid for with a direct payment as the authority does not record the details of individuals' care arrangements.

*4. How much of this spend is going through a direct payment in the last financial year (approximate is fine)*  
£0

*5. If the price per an hour an individual is given for agency support is fixed based on council rates (i.e. a regular price would be £14) or if it is up to the individual to negotiate their own rate?*

There is an hourly direct payment rate which is based on the amount required to pay the London Living Wage to a carer employed by the person requiring care. If someone wishes to use an agency they negotiate their own rate.

*6. Does the council have a target to increase the number of individuals using a direct payment? If so what is this target?*

The council encourages the use of direct payments as part of approach of offering personalised services and this option will be explored as part of assessment and support planning process. While the council is expecting to see an increase over the coming years of more service users opting for personalised direct payments there are no specific targets set across Adult Social care regarding increasing direct payments.

*5. Does the council have a Direct Payment Support Service?*

DASL Disability Advice Service Lambeth provider ongoing support for all D.P users

*6. Is there a manager responsible for the monitoring of Direct Payments? What is their name and title?*

The Brokerage Manager is responsible for monitoring Direct Payments.

I can confirm that Lambeth Council holds the information you requested. However, we are withholding the name of the Brokerage Manager since we consider that the absolute exemption set out in Section 40 (Personal information) subsection 2 applies to it.

We do not routinely release all contact details for members of staff whose data is not usually in the public domain. The Chief Executive and Directors have a greater level of expectation of transparency and openness about what they do. This staffs are responsible for major policy decisions and expect greater scrutiny of their posts. Staff at lower levels within the organisation often hold unique roles and would not expect all their contact details to be published or made freely available. The officer whose details have been withheld are not in public facing roles, as such, it is difficult for us to find a compelling argument for disclosure due to the unnecessary diversion of resources that disclosure of such staff would likely to cause.

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Olive Morris House Brixton Hill  
London  
SW2 1RD

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

Enquiry line: 0303 123 1113

Thank you for your interest in Lambeth Council.

Yours faithfully

Ms Wiseman  
Complaints & Information Officer  
FOI team  
London Borough of Lambeth

Tel. 02079260547  
E-mail [xxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx.xx)  
Website: [www.lambeth.gov.uk](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk)

Olive Morris House  
18 Brixton Hill  
London  
SW2 1RL

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