

5th January 2021

Caroline M Kelly
[Caroline M Kelly <request-711981-421eee5d@whatdotheyknow.com>]

Our ref.: FOI/20/348

Dear Ms Kelly

RE: Freedom of Information (FOI) request – Payment of Carers Cash Grants

We refer to your Freedom of Information request which was received by the Western Health and Social Care Trust on 9th December 2020. You requested information relating to the payment of 'Carers Cash Grants' for the three financial years 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

Please see below a Trust response to your request.

1. Copies of current staff and user guidance in use in WHSCT concerning payment of cash grants.

In response, see attached two documents with information and guidance for staff and users regarding the payment of cash grants.

2. How much was the budget allocated by WHSCT for the payment of cash grants for the each of these financial years?

3. What was the cash grant allocation for each Programme of Care for each year?

4. How many cash grants have been paid each year in each Programme of Care?

In response to questions 2, 3 and 4 please see the table at Appendix 1 below, which provides details about the budget, expenditure and number of cash grants paid and is broken down by directorate for each financial year, 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 (April 2020 until October 2020).

5. What criteria or assessment was used for determining eligibility for the cash grant in each programme of care?

In response, the attached documents contain details about eligibility for cash grants.

6. As per analysis of receipts, what have the cash grants in each programme of care been used for?

Carers Cash grants are used mainly for short breaks, pamper sessions, new clothes and equipment for hobbies.

7. What group or responsible person within the Trust is accountable for distribution of cash grants?

The individual team managers are responsible for the budget distribution.

8. What is the source of the funding stream either within the annual Trust budget or through allocation from HSCB or other external funding authority?

These carer cash grant budgets were established from recurring funding provided by HSCB.

We hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely

(Not signed – issued by email)

**Freedom of Information Office
Western Health and Social Care Trust**

Freedom of Information: If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the FOI Office, Lime Villa, Gransha Park, Clooney Road, Londonderry, BT47 6WJ (foi.request@westerntrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, usually within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

Freedom of Information (FOI) Office, Western HSC Trust,
Lime Villa, Gransha Park, Clooney Road, Londonderry, BT47 6WJ
e-mail: foi.request@westerntrust.hscni.net

Appendix 1

Directorate/Programme of Care	2018/19			2019/20			2020/21 (7 months: April 2020 to October 2020)		
	Budget	Expenditure	Number of Cash Grants	Budget	Expenditure	Number of Cash Grants	Budget	Expenditure	Number of Cash Grants
	£	£		£	£		£	£	
Physical Disability	7,000	6,210	50	7,000	6,110	61	4,084	3,925	35
Learning Disability	12,402	12,124	112	16,726	13,740	134	7,857	8,346	84
Adult Mental Health	13,013	8,829	54	13,353	7,078	48	8,251	3,490	24
Primary Care & Older People	81,028	75,686	526	99,596	66,421	502	58,447	20,460	193
Women & Children's	16,310	25,064	167	28,638	27,586	186	10,337	18,540	124
Total - WHSCT	129,753	127,913	909	165,313	120,935	931	88,976	54,761	460