BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

My Ref: FOI/ 4248
Enquiries to: Information Requests
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Requester,

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

Q1) Please provide a copy of your 2025 to 2026 fee uplift letter that was sent to care providers. If you have not yet reported your fee uplift, please outline the Council's timeline for publication, including any internal dates where decisions related to the offer will be made.

Note: Please do not embed the document in your response. Please share the letter as an attachment.

Please see attached.

Q2) Please confirm the date when the local authority/Cabinet agreed or made the decision to proceed with the fee uplift for care providers for the 2025/26 financial year.

The council does not have a separate cabinet approval process for fee uplifts. Proposals for fee uplifts are built into the council's wider budget setting process with budgets agreed by cabinet on the 27 Feb 2025.
A fee uplift report is taken into cabinet to advise them of the uplifts applied post April – this is currently scheduled for cabinet on the 12 Aug 2025 subject to governance processes.

Q3) Please confirm the date this decision on the fee uplift for the 2025/26 financial year was officially communicated to the providers.

A provider forum was held on 13 February 2025 via Teams during which the council's proposals for fee uplift were outlined, this was followed up with an email on the 14 February and subsequently confirmed by a letter dated 7 March.

Q4) Please provide your 2025 to 2026 <u>weekly base*</u> fee rates for the following care types:

A. **Nursing (Excl. FNC)**
B. **Nursing with Dementia (Excl. FNC)**
C. **Residential (without nursing)**
D. **Residential (without nursing) with Dementia**

Note: If you do not operate a base fee, please provide the fee schedule you use (i.e. a banding or range of fees, or guide prices). If no fee schedule is used, please provide the average fee proposed during this period for each care type.

Q5) Please provide your <u>average weekly</u> fee rate (being the average weekly fee paid during the period 1st April 2024 to March 31st 2025) for the following care types:

A. Nursing (Excl. FNC)
B. Nursing with Dementia (Excl. FNC)
C. Residential (without nursing)
D. Residential (without nursing) with Dementia

Note: if you are unable to split Dementia from care without Dementia, please provide a blended Residential and a blended Nursing rate. This calculation should be the same as the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund reporting submitted in May 2023.

Q6) Please provide your <u>provisional average weekly</u> fee rate (calculated consistently with the rate in the question above) for the period 2025-2026 for the following care types:

A. Nursing (Excl. FNC)
B. Nursing with Dementia (Excl. FNC)
C. Residential (without nursing)
D. Residential (without nursing) with Dementia

Note: if you are unable to split Dementia from care without Dementia, please provide a blended Residential and a blended Nursing rate. This calculation should be the same as the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund reporting submitted in May 2023.

The table below answers questions 4, 5 & 6. The council does not differentiate between residential and nursing places. Nursing placements are funded at the residential rate plus FNC.

		2024-25	2025-26
A.	Nursing (Excl. FNC)	£751.56	£806.42
B.	Nursing with Dementia (Excl. FNC)	£807.62	£866.58
C.	Residential (without nursing)	£751.56	£806.42
D.	Residential (without nursing) with Dementia	£807.62	£866.58
	Enhanced*	£805.22	£864.00
	Enhanced with Dementia*	£870.56	£934.11

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The rates provided are contracted rates payable for all placements purchased under the council's framework contract.

Q7) Please confirm if your authority requires or provisions for care providers to pay care staff a rate higher than the National Living Wage, and when this policy was implemented.

The council's policy is to ensure that direct care staff working as part of council contracts are paid £1 above the national living wage. This was implemented in 2020 following a decision by the Leader of the Council.
For residential care providers, whilst we do encourage payment of the £1 above NLW this is not mandated in contracts.
The enhanced fee rates shown are paid to those providers who opt into this agreement.

Q8) For the period 1*st* April 2024 to 31*st* March 2025, please provide the number of individual residents, where their contracts for the provision of Older Person Services for both residential care and nursing care were either terminated by the care provider, handed back by the care provider, or were renegotiated due to the threat or notice of termination/handing back was made by the care provider. You should provide the number of residents this applies to and the number of care providers.

We are unable to provide this information. When this happens it is recorded at an individual level in our case management system and we are therefore unable to identify those individuals. Commissioning intelligence would suggest that the number of terminations or handbacks in Barnsley is low.

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

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Information Requests Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

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

Email: http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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