



Request

Please provide:

The average waiting time for eligible individuals to receive a care package following their assessment, for each of the past five years (2020-2025).

If available, please include the longest and shortest waiting times recorded each year.

Response

After careful consideration, we regret to inform you that we are unable to comply with your request. This is because the cost of locating, retrieving, and extracting the information exceeds the appropriate limit set out in Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) relieves a public authority from the obligation to comply with a request for information where the estimated time required to locate, review and extract the information exceeds a certain threshold set out in Regulations.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/3244) set out the rules in relation to the cost limit (otherwise called the "appropriate limit"). These Regulations are published by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) and are viewable on their web site from this link:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/uksi_20043244_en.pdf

The Regulations set out the cost limit for Government departments and for other public authorities. For local government, Regulation 3 states that the cost limit is £450 and Regulation 4(4) states that the prescribed hourly rate is £25. Regulation 4(4) further provides that where the local authority estimates the time taken to gather the information would exceed this limit (which based on the prescribed hourly rate, equates to 18 officer hours), it may refuse the request under section 12 of FoIA. I am satisfied the cost limit applies to your request and will explain why this is the case.

Within the time period stated there are 40,370 completed Support Plan worksteps, we would have to link these up to services (this would involve client Id's and date lookups, as our services reports do not carry workstep IDs like our Assessments and Support Plans so we cannot directly link) and we would then have to manually check dates in order to give a reliable timeframe