



06 February 2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 136/18

Dear Sir/Madam

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is provided below.

Request:

Research shows that the everyday cost of having a disability can be substantial, relative to the cost a non-disabled person would otherwise have to spend in order to meet their physical and social needs. Much of the additional cost arises from how disabled people lead their lives, which is not well recognised by the benefits system. Understanding the true cost of living with a disability is critical for any social support system to ensure that people do not have to live in undue hardship.

With this in mind:

1. If a person can evidence disability related expenses, do you pay these / subtract them from a person's care charges?

Answer: If a person can evidence disability related expenses (DRE) we subtract these when undertaking the financial assessment.

2. Do you have a definitive list of what constitutes disability related expenses?

Answer: We do not have a definitive list of what constitutes DRE. However we do refer to NAFAO guidance as a starting point. (attached)

3. If yes to 2 above, please supply the list.

Answer: Not Applicable

4. If no to 2 above, can you give examples of what you would consider as disability related expenses, based on what you have paid for in the past.

Answer: Some examples of DRE include; private care/domestic help, life line, garden maintenance, respite care fees, prescriptions, excess washing due to incontinence, incontinence aids, clothing/footwear, transport costs above mobility award of DLA or PIP, equipment, insurance for equipment, chiropody and physiotherapy.

5. Please say if you would pay for any of the following as disability related expenses to enable disabled people to reach a minimal acceptable standard of living:

- Technological equipment, software and IT training (eg. laptop, mobile phone, screen reader software, etc.) to enable communication, facilitate access to written materials, make the best use of a person's sight, etc;
- Domestic help, eg. regular help with cleaning, dealing with particular jobs;
- Additional travel costs, eg. taxi journeys to medical appointments, visits to dispersed social networks;
- Additional costs of socialising and going on holiday, eg. companion's travel costs (without whom a holiday would be impossible), using a hotel rather than self-catering accommodation, etc;
- Additional cost of household goods, eg. better lighting, floor coverings, paying someone to help with home maintenance, etc;
- Additional health care costs, eg. increase in the number of prescriptions, purchase of sanitary/hygiene items, etc;
- Utilities, eg. additional cost of electricity to run technological equipment, additional lighting, etc;
- Specialist support, eg. sign language interpreters, which is not always considered a 'reasonable adjustment' to providing services;
- Social activities, eg. to combat the risk of social isolation;

Answer: We would consider taking into account the expenditure for any of the above as DRE to enable an individual to reach a minimal acceptable standard of living.

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact the Head of Corporate Governance, Rutland County Council, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP
You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water lane
Wilmslow, Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545700

Yours faithfully

FOI Administrator
Corporate Support Team, Rutland County Council

Disability Related Expenses

	Heading	Amount that can count as DRE	Evidence Required	Additional Notes
1	Community Alarm system	Actual weekly costs incurred.	Bill from Provider	Lifeline alarms are free to certain Housing Association tenants, reduced cost to others. Harborough £4.40 per week Spire £4.00 per week
2	Additional laundry costs Cost of more than 3 loads of washing per week specifically in respect of the service user will generally be considered.	Where laundry is undertaken at home, for more than 3 loads per week allow £4.00 per week. Where the service user is required to use a commercial laundry due to disability allow £8.00 per week.	Past 4 weeks launderette or laundry receipts	Incontinence or other personal hygiene issues will have been identified in the Care Plan.
3	Continance Products	Actual reasonable weekly costs averaged over previous 4 weeks. If no receipts, check product cost on line.	Past 4 weeks receipts	The Care Plan will have identified a continence problem.
4	Special dietary needs Medical evidence will be required	Additional weekly cost of specialist foods over the cost of non-specialist food, averaged over previous 4 weeks.	Past 4 weeks. receipts	
5	Clothing and Footwear Additional cost of specially made clothing or footwear due to disability, or additional cost of replacement clothing due to abnormal wear and tear. Excludes items that can be provided by the NHS.	Amount allowed will be considered on a case to case basis based on the additional cost over average of specially made clothing or footwear or the additional cost over average where clothing or footwear needs frequent replacement.		There should be reference within the Care Plan to abnormal wear and tear of clothing.

Disability Related Expenses

	Heading	Amount that can count as DRE	Evidence Required	Additional Notes
6	<p>Bedding Where higher than average replacement costs due to continence problems or other disabilities.</p>	Additional cost of replacement bedding over average based on previous year's expenditure	Past year's receipts.	The Care Plan will have identified a continence problem.
7	<p>Additional Heating and/or fuel costs over average expenditure (Taking into account any contributions to fuel bills from other members of the household.)</p>	<p>Additional usage over average expenditure, based on National Guidance. Average expenditure: Single in flat and terraced..... £1,224.13 Couple in flat and terraced..... £1613.40 Single in semi-detached.....£1300.21 Couple in semi-detached..... £1712.20 Single in detached..... £1580.80 Couple in detached..... £2083.69</p> <p>Divide by the number of adults in the house less service user's share of the Winter Fuel Allowance. (£200 or £300 if over 80)</p>	A full year of bills for all types of fuel, or evidence of Direct Debits	NAFAO guide 2017/18
8	<p>Reasonable costs of basic garden maintenance. (Consideration will be given to the circumstances of others living in the household.)</p>	<p>Discretionary based on individual costs of garden maintenance.</p> <p>Maximum allowance is £10 per week for 9 months per year(36 wks).</p> <p>Divide by number of adults in the house</p>	Receipts for at least four visits	

Disability Related Expenses

	Heading	Amount that can count as DRE	Evidence Required	Additional Notes
9	<p>Cleaning, or domestic help Where housework is not included in the Personal Budget and a commercial cleaner is required as a consequence of disability. Account will be taken of the circumstances of others living in the household.</p>	<p>Actual cost Divide by number of adults in the house</p>	<p>Receipts for at least four visits</p>	<p>Requirement confirmed in the Care Plan and Council supported care reduced accordingly.</p>
10	<p>Stair-lift Purchased within the last 12 months.</p>	<p>Actual cost divided by 500 (10 years useful life).</p>	<p>Evidence of purchase</p>	
11	<p>Wheelchair Purchased within the last 12 months</p>	<p>Actual cost divided by 500 (10 years useful life).</p>	<p>Evidence of purchase</p>	
12	<p>Other equipment or aids The majority of equipment and aids can be provided either by Occupational Therapy or the NHS.</p>	<p>Actual cost divided by useful life</p>	<p>Receipts</p>	<p>Bed – 500 weeks (10 years) Reclining chair – 500 weeks (10 years) Hoist – 500 weeks (10 years)</p>
13	<p>Costs associated with privately purchased equipment Insurance and servicing.</p>	<p>Actual cost over previous year divided by 52</p>	<p>Receipts</p>	
14	<p>Transport costs Reasonable costs considered on an individual basis, over and above those incurred by an able bodied person.</p>	<p>Actual weekly costs averaged over previous 4 weeks (over and above the mobility component of DLA or PIP where this is in payment). If on AA use lower MOB rate</p>	<p>Invoices or receipts</p>	<p>Evidence in Care plan for the need for special transport.</p>

Disability Related Expenses

	Heading	Amount that can count as DRE	Evidence Required	Additional Notes
15	Opticians & Dentist's home call charges Where a home visit is required as user is unable to access dentist's surgery or opticians.	Actual weekly costs averaged over previous year.	Receipts.	
16	Prescription charges (those aged 60 or over and on Income Support are entitled to free prescriptions.	Cost of an annual season ticket divided by 52 or actual cost of prescription, whichever is less.	Receipts	
17	Communications: Discretionary based on costs that would not usually be incurred. Telephone line rental, mobile phone costs, and internet access are now part of everyday life and would not normally be considered.	Reasonable average weekly costs of communications specifically related to disability	Receipts	
18	Podiatry: Where there is a need that is not being met by the NHS.	Reasonable average weekly costs	Receipts	
19	Osteopathy, physiotherapy, etc: Must be confirmed by the GP that this is essential and not available on the NHS.	Reasonable average weekly costs up to £20.00 per week.	Receipts	
20	Chemist/Medical Items, where need arises from disability and is not available under prescription. First £5 not allowed as considered normal expenditure	Reasonable average weekly costs over £5 per week	Receipts,	
21	Hair Washing: Where service user is unable to wash own hair, and hair wash is not included in the Personal Budget.	Maximum of £ 7.10 per hair wash	Receipts	

Disability Related Expenses

	Heading	Amount that can count as DRE	Evidence Required	Additional Notes
22	Carers meals	Allow costs over £5.00 up to £10.00 per week.	Receipts	
23	Carer cost	Allow on an individual basis.	Receipts	
24	Holidays/Respite	Cost of a Carer for up to 7 days per year. Half of the cost of respite/specialist holiday for up to 7 days per year.	Receipts	Don't allow respite expenses if RCC funded respite.
25	Other costs caused by illness or disability or that help the Service User to live independently but only where additional costs are incurred over and above those that an able bodied person of the same age would reasonably incur	Actual average weekly costs	Receipts	

Without proof of expenditure allow a maximum of £20.00 per week