

Archived: 15 July 2025 09:51:17

From: [FOI Responses](#)

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Freedom of Information Response [REDACTED]

Importance: Normal

Sensitivity: None

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 16th May 2025 for information about the role of social care in delivering home adaptations, including Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs). Please find below City of Doncaster Council's responses to the questions you have raised.

Section 1: DFGs and Domiciliary Care:

Question 1a: Over the last 5 years* what percentage of people that your social services department referred (or were consulted upon) for a Disabled Facilities Grant were in receipt of a domiciliary care package at the point of referral?

Question 1b: For those people in receipt of a domiciliary care package – what was the average number of hours of care at the point of referral?

Question 1c: For those people in receipt of a domiciliary care package – what was the average number of hours of care one year after the Disabled Facilities Grant had been completed?

Section 2: DFGs and Residential Care Admission

Question 2: Over the last 5 years* what has was the average age of people placed in residential or nursing care for:

Question 2a: People who had previously received a Disabled Facilities Grant

Question 2b: People with has NOT previously received a Disabled Facilities Grant

Section 3: DFGs and Residential Care Outcomes

Question 3: Over the last 5 years* what has was the average age of people who died in residential or nursing care for:

Question 3a: People who had previously received a Disabled Facilities Grant

Question 3b: People with has NOT previously received a Disabled Facilities Grant

Section 4: Social Care Contributions to DFG-Related Costs:

- What was the total value of these contributions?

Response: Please refer to above response in relation to the exemption Section 12. The City of Doncaster Council does not hold a central record of this information.

Response:

Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act allows for a request for information to be refused where the cost of supplying this information exceeds the appropriate limit. After carefully considering your request for information the City of Doncaster Council has decided that to respond to your request would exceed the appropriate limit as defined in the [Freedom of Information \(Appropriate Limit and Fees\) Regulations 2004](#). The regulations allow a request for information to be refused where the cost of supplying this information exceeds £450 (or 18 hours of officer time).

The cost limit applies in this case because (the City of Doncaster Council does not hold a central record of this information and in order to determine referrals made for DFG and residential care admissions and outcomes as a total of 7823 records will need to be reviewed across three systems. It is estimated that each record will require a 20-minute investigation. As details of 7823 records require review in order to determine this information this would result in a total time of approximately 2607 hours which would exceed the time limit.

Section 4: Social Care Contributions to DFG-Related Costs:

Question 4a:

In the last full financial year, did your social care department contribute to any DFG-funded adaptations where:

- * The total cost exceeded the statutory upper limit?

Response: Yes, the City of Doncaster Council have exceeded the statutory upper limit.

- * The applicant had a means-tested contribution they could not afford?

Response: Yes, the applicant had a means-tested contribution they could not afford.

If yes:

- How many cases in each category?

Response: Over the last 3 years there have been a total of 12 cases that have exceed the statutory upper limit.

- What was the total value of these contributions?

Response: The City of Doncaster Council does not hold a central record of this information.

- Under what duties were the contributions made (e.g. Care Act, Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act)? Discretionary funding

Response: The City of Doncaster Council used discretionary funding in these cases via the Care Act.

- What is the decision-making process for agreeing such contributions?

Response: The City of Doncaster Council have an Adaptations Forum where discretionary funding is discussed.

Section 5: Use of DFG Funds for Other Social Care Capital Purposes

Question 5a: In the last full financial year, has your local authority used any of the local DFG allocation for other social care capital purposes under the Better Care Fund rules?

Response: Yes, the City of Doncaster Council has used any of the local DFG allocation for other social care capital purposes under the Better Care Fund rules.

Question 5b:

- What was the amount used?
- What was the funding spent on?
- Was this included in your local Better Care Fund Plan?

Response: The City of Doncaster Council have used £100K for the boiler on prescription scheme. This is where people can access a new boiler if theirs is not working. There is a criterion for this. This was included in the City of Doncaster Councils' Local Better Care Fund Plan.

Section 6: Panel Use in DFG Decision-Making

Question 6a: Are panel meetings currently routinely used to decide if a DFG adaptation is "necessary and appropriate"?

Response: The City of Doncaster Council currently use panel meetings routinely to decide if a DFG adaption is 'necessary and appropriate'.

Question 6b:

If yes:

- What percentage of DFG cases are considered by a panel

Response: Please refer to the response in above for the exemption Section 12.

- What types of cases usually go to panel?

Response: Cases who request is over £10,000 are all discussed at panel plus any complex cases including discretionary funding.

- Who attends the panel?

Response: The attendees at panel are Head of Service, Service Manager, Adaptations Manager, Advanced Practitioner and the worker who's case is currently being presented.

Section 7: Waiting Lists for Assessment

Question 7a: As of 1st April 2025, how many people were waiting for an assessment following a request for equipment or adaptations?

Response: As of 1st April 2025, the City of Doncaster Council had 233 waiting for an assessment following a request for equipment or adaptations.

Question 7b: What is the average and longest wait time (in weeks) from referral to assessment?

Response: The average wait time is 18 weeks, and the longest wait time is 28 weeks.

Question 7c: Are cases triaged or prioritised (e.g. by risk, urgency, or complexity)?

Response: Yes, cases are triaged or priorities by risk, urgency, or complexity.

Section 8: Use of Trusted Assessors:

Question 8a: Do you (or partners) use Trusted Assessors (e.g. trained caseworkers, technical officers, etc) to carry out assessments for adaptations?

Response: Yes, the City of Doncaster Council does use trusted assessors.

Question 8b:

If yes:

- What types of cases are they used for?

Response: Trust assessors are used for minor adaptations.

- How do they work alongside OTs or OTAs?

Response: The trusted assessors work alongside OT's and OTA's and they can refer directly into adaptations for minor works, which they are competent to do.

- What training and supervision is in place?

Response: The City of Doncaster Council has a Senior Technical Officer that will oversee the officers, support on training and offer supervision.

I hope that this information is useful to you.

City of Doncaster Council estimates that it has cost £98.00 to respond to this request for information.

Reviewing any decisions made:

If you are not happy with this reply you can ask us to review our response. To do this write to us within 40 working days of receiving your response at the address below or email FOIAppeals@doncaster.gov.uk

If you do not agree with the review decision you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision about our compliance or otherwise with the Freedom of Information legislation. Contact details for the ICO are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9

5AF. www.ico.org.uk Telephone 0303 123 1113.

Yours sincerely,
Sophie

Sophie Ormshaw

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Please treat the content of this e-mail as confidential. If you have received this e-mail and it is not addressed to you please accept my apologies and inform me as soon as possible.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 May 2025 16:10
To: Freedom of Information Requests <FOI.Requests@doncaster.gov.uk>
Subject: Freedom of Information Request – Social Care and Home Adaptations

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Allow sender](#)

Hi,

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 about the role of social care in delivering home adaptations, including Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs).

To help us clearly understand the role social care plays in assessing, funding, and deciding on adaptations, please could you complete the attached questionnaire.

If fulfilling this request would exceed the cost limits set out in Section 12 of the Act, please provide advice (under your Section 16 obligations) on how we might refine our request.

If you have any questions or need clarification, please feel free to contact me by email or at the address below.

Thank you for your help—I look forward to your response within the 20 working days as required by the Act.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]