

ANNEX

REASONS FOR NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION AT THE LEVEL OF DETAIL REQUESTED

The Scottish Government does not have the information broken down to the level you have asked for because most claims to the Social Care Staff Support Fund are paid through the same funding mechanism as Financial Support for Social Care Providers.

This support for adult social care providers covers support for sustained, significant impacts to service delivery, and the commitment to meet reasonable additional costs relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. Adult social care providers can claim staffing costs, which includes the Social Care Staff Support Fund.

At the beginning of the pandemic, swift establishment of the Fund was necessary, at the time there was an agreement between Scottish Government and stakeholders that social care providers would access the Fund via the existing mechanism that was already in place for Financial Support for Social Care Providers, previously known as sustainability payments. Adopting this claim and payment mechanism enabled the Fund to be set up quickly and in line with existing guidance.

Financial Support for Social Care Providers guidance sets out a light touch approach to evidence gathering and financial reporting. Whilst providers are required to provide evidence to support costs they are submitting for reimbursement, it was recognised that providers and commissioners alike were responding to the ongoing pandemic and that there has been a significant administrative burden to recover additional costs to date. As a consequence of this, we do not have the data broken down to the level you have requested.

It is also worth noting that the Scottish Government are not involved in the administration of the Fund where the service is delegated. Claims to the Support Fund are submitted to the relevant Integration Authority, who process the claims and transfer the payments to Social Care providers, and reclaim the funds from the Scottish Government via the Financial Support for Social Care Providers process.

In 2020-21, £1.7 billion of additional funding was provided to Health Boards and Integration Authorities to support the Health and Social Care Sector in the response to the pandemic. This financial year so far, £380 million has been allocated to Health Boards to help with costs arising from the pandemic. Further financial support will be made available as necessary over the course of this year.

For delegated services, a total of £561 million was allocated to Integration Authorities for 2020-21, this figure includes the funding for Financial Support for Social Care Providers, in addition to wider social care support, for example for reducing delayed discharges, for loss of income and for other staff costs. Financial Support for Social Care Providers claimed by providers in relation to additional staffing costs in 2020-21 totalled £30 million.

In March 2021, Chief Finance Officers within Integration Authorities confirmed that additional financial support had been provided to 1,293 social care providers in the third and independent sector. At this time, there were a further 58 social care providers who had been in contact for support and were having their claims progressed.

As referenced above, the [guidance](#) for financial support for social care providers during COVID-19 recommends a light touch approach to gathering evidence. This recommendation is outlined in paragraph 48 of the guidance.

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There is a robust process in place to ensure that public funds are spent appropriately, this consists of a requirement to ensure clear audit trails are in place to record how funding has been spent. Local Authorities and Integration Authorities will also have their own internal and governance processes in place and Section 95 officers must adhere to their duties in relation to accounting for public funds. This includes ensuring that payments for additional costs are made in line with the guidance.

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