

From: [Foi Enquiries](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI-18-0212 - Disabled Expenses
Date: 27 February 2018 10:50:18
Attachments: [Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your information request of 2 February 2018. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested.

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?

Yes, individuals can apply for disability related expenses, but it's up to the individual to tell us what DRE they have when we are carrying out a financial assessment. Disability related expenses would be disregarded as available income, if the individual is in receipt of a disability benefit. We would ask for evidence of costs arising from their disability and reasons why they are "disabled related". Not all costs will be considered eligible.

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

No. Individuals who are known to our service have different day to day needs and experiences. We would take a balanced view of the costs relating to an individual's disability, as everyone's costs will be different.

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

Not applicable, please see our response above.

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.

The individual would have to work out what is an "extra" disabled related expense compared to someone who does not have a disability or impairment. For example:

- General outgoings e.g. costs associated with additional heating because of limited mobility and the need to maintain a body temperature, or higher laundry costs.
- Electricity due to electrical gadgets using more electricity than non-disabled people would need to use e.g. ventilator
- Purchase, maintenance and repair of specialist disability equipment

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;**

Yes, to enable communication where this is not provided by the health service and only if assessed as essential to meeting care needs, and one cannot happen without the other, and only after having pursued all other options around applications for grants from national organisations as well as local agencies.

- **Domestic help, eg. regular help with cleaning, dealing with particular jobs;**

We would not provide support if the need is just for help with housework. However, we will support with applications to maximise income and support to contact a local organisation or private agency.

- **Additional travel costs, eg. taxi journeys to medical appointments, visits to dispersed social networks;**

Yes, support with getting out and about where the need for health and wellbeing is higher because of a disability.

- **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;**

We do not pay for holidays.

- **Additional cost of household goods, eg. better lighting, floor coverings, paying someone to help with home maintenance, etc;**

We would not usually undertake any payments of household items unless in an absolute emergency.

- **Additional health care costs, eg. increase in the number of prescriptions, purchase of sanitary/hygiene items, etc;**

We do not provide support with this.

- **Utilities, eg. additional cost of electricity to run technological equipment, additional lighting, etc;**

Yes, additional cost of electricity to run technological equipment, additional lighting etc if using more power than a non-disabled person would need to use.

- **Specialist support, eg. sign language interpreters, which is not always considered a 'reasonable adjustment' to providing services;**

We do not as a general rule provide support with this.

- **Social activities, eg. to combat the risk of social isolation;**

Yes, support with socializing where the need for health and wellbeing is higher because of a disability.

- **Anything else?**

No.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Grant Webster
Information Compliance Officer

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST

ACC handled your request for information in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under FOISA.

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