



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending
watchdog

Switchboard +44 (0)207 798 7000
Direct Line +44 (0)207 798 7264
Email FOI@nao.org.uk

Reference FOI-1613
Date 19th May 2023

PERSONAL BUDGETS & DIRECT PAYMENT STATISTICS IN SOCIAL CARE

Thank you for your request of 7th May 2023 in relation to statistical data on Personal Budgets and Direct Payments made through local authorities for social care needs. Your request was considered in accordance with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your specific request is reproduced at **Annex A** for your reference.

We have carried out a thorough search for the information you requested, and we have established that we do not hold the information as it is not recorded as part of the work the NAO carries out.

However, we are aware of publicly available data sets that might help you. The most comprehensive data can be found within the: [Adult Social Care Activity and Finance Report - NHS Digital](#).

In the [2021-22 report](#) (the last year in which data is currently available), useful tabs will be Tab 45 (column F) and Tab 39 (columns F and G). On the NHS Digital website, you will be able to find previous reports and therefore get the data comparison by year that you seek. Please be aware that the format of the data sets can change between years. Expenditure will be in cash terms for the year in question and you may wish to adjust expenditure to real terms using GDP deflators. You might wish to refer to: [GDP deflators at market prices, and money GDP - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

Alternatively, if you need any further help, the contact details for NHS Digital are enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk where you can also submit an FOI request.

Annex B sets out the steps you may wish to take if you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request.

May I wish you the best of luck with your MA in Social Work and I hope that you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely

NAO FOI Team

157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, Victoria, London SW1W 9SP
020 7798 7000 www.nao.org.uk



Cert No. 8835

ISO 14001

Annex A

Request for information about 'Personal Budgets (PBs) and Direct Payments (DPs) from 2015 to 2023 or the most current year as follows:'

1. The number of adults whose social care needs were paid for through local authority PBs and DPs.
2. Spending by local authorities on long-term social care in the community
3. Percentage changes in real terms spending by local authorities between 2015 to 2023 for PBs and DPs
4. The proportion of adults using DPs
5. The take-up by younger adult's vs older people.

Annex B

Statement of Policy

Our policy is to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as helpfully and promptly as possible, having regard to the principles set out in the Act. I therefore hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not, then you should take the following steps.

In the first instance, within 40 working days, write to the National Audit Office Freedom of Information (FOI) Team at FOI.requests@nao.org.uk or by post* to:

FOI Team, Green 2, National Audit Office, 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SP

The Head of FOI will arrange a review, which will be conducted by a senior member of staff who was not involved in decisions relating to your original request. Once the review has been completed, we will write informing you of the outcome.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

<https://ico.org.uk/> or Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF