

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/499014

1. How many people living in the community do you have on waiting lists awaiting an assessment for social services and home care packages? (in the last year)

- (a) How many of these people are classed as terminally ill**
- (b) How many have motor neurone disease**

East Lothian Council (ELC) does not record/classify these categories on referrals*. They are screened as a priority and would not wait longer than 2 weeks for an assessment visit.

2. How many people living in the community and meeting the 'Critical and Substantial criteria' were given a care package in the last year?

- (a) How many of these people are classed as terminally ill**
- (b) How many have motor neurone disease**

ELC does not record these categories on care packages*, however, there are 2,020 people currently receiving a Care at Home or Residential/Nursing service in East Lothian.

3. How many people being discharged from hospital were given care packages in the last year?

- (a) How many of these people have a terminal illness**
- (b) How many have motor neurone disease**

ELC does not record these categories on care packages*, however, there are 2,020 people currently receiving a Care at Home or Residential/Nursing service in East Lothian.

4. Do you have a policy on prioritising people for care packages once they have met criteria, for example do those awaiting discharge from hospital get priority over those living in the community?

- (a) Does this include people who are terminally ill?**

ELC has no formal policy*. Working practice is that hospital discharge and palliative care are given priority but risk is taken into account for those waiting in the community. Decisions can be made on case by case basis to ensure care is targeted to those most at risk.

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5. How many have people died while waiting for a social care package to commence, after an assessment has been made.

- (a) How many of these people have a terminal illness**
- (b) How many motor neurone disease**

ELC does not record this information*

6. How many carers have received respite breaks in the last year?

- (a) How many of these carers are looking after someone who is terminally ill**
- (b) How many of these carers are looking after someone who has Motor Neurone Disease**

ELC does not record this information*

7. How many people with a neurological condition used Self-directed support in the last year?

- (a) How many of these used option 1**
- (b) How many of these used option 2**
- (c) How many of these used option 3**
- (d) How many of these used option 4**

ELC does not record specific conditions when awarding SDS*.

8. What is the average length of time someone will wait from their initial application for a wet room to completion of the job? (in the last year)

In general, the application to process an application for a wet floor shower following assessment takes approximately 3-6 months. All requests are forwarded to Housing Occupational therapists who will assist the clients and advise the relevant architectural and contractor staff throughout the process.

(a) Does someone with a terminal illness get this process fast-tracked?

A wet floor shower can be fast tracked if required, however, this request requires to be authorised by Management and cases vary depending on prognosis and feedback from other professionals involved with client.

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9. What is the average length of time someone will wait from their initial application for a ramp to completion of the job? (in the last year)

Timescales for installation of ramp to a property can vary dependent on the type of ramp, need for building warrant and or requirement to seek permission from other householders. The type of ramp is also determined very much by the property type and whether it will meet the longer term needs of a client. As such we have two types of ramp a semi-permanent or a permanent ramp. This requires a survey and quotations are gained before the order is placed.

Timescales for semi-permanent ramps can take 16-20 weeks.

A concrete permanent ramp can also take between 16 and 26 weeks dependent on tenure.

The process may take far longer if a building Warrant is required. Also if the property is within a conservation area or is privately rented this can influence timescales.

(a) Does someone with a terminal illness get this process fast-tracked?

Where possible ELC will always aim to fast track and support the needs of a person with a terminal illness and this is again dependent on the ability to provide a ramp or consider alternative equipment to enable wheelchair access to a property.

10. Is there a process to fast track applications for terminally ill people in the following scenarios

(a) Have been assessed for a care package

People who are terminally ill and are assessed as requiring care are given priority along with hospital discharge and high risk cases. They are marked so it is easily identifiable to care providers that they are a priority.

(b) Have applied and have been assessed for a home adaption grant (wet room etc)

Please refer to Q8a).

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(c) Are on a waiting list for suitable housing accommodation (for example accessible housing)

People looking to be re-housed by the local council to more suitable accommodation can apply for re-housing with East Lothian Council. If they have a medical need to be re-housed to an adapted or adaptable property they can apply for additional re-housing points via the Health & Housing Process. If someone is terminally ill evidence can be provided by a specialist providing information on their condition. This can then result in an award which will give them priority points.

Finally, it may help to explain that Freedom of Information legislation only applies to information which is held or recorded by a public authority. It does not apply to views, opinions, intentions or questions which simply require a yes/no answer. In view of this, some of the questions asked are not technically valid for the purposes of this legislation as they are not requests for specific recorded information that ELC may or may not hold.

In order to assist you, however, colleagues have addressed the questions posed to the best of their knowledge. For future reference, a link to the "Tips for Requesters" page of the Scottish Information Commissioner's website has been provided which you may find useful:

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Tipsforrequesters.aspx>

*Under Section 17(1)(b) of the Act, I must formally advise you that ELC has been unable to comply with those parts of your request marked * as the information you require is not held.