

## **Freedom of Information Request 1407 - for Cassie Barton of RICA research charity**

In this request, the term 'powered wheelchair' is used to refer to EPICs (electrically powered indoor powered wheelchairs) and EPIOCs (electrically powered indoor/outdoor powered wheelchairs).

### **1. Criteria for deciding suitability for a powered wheelchair.**

Please supply copies of any documentation that sets out the criteria used to determine whether a person is suitable/eligible to receive a powered wheelchair, or funding towards a powered wheelchair, from Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust – including clinical guidance.

#### **City & Hackney Wheelchair Service**

##### **Criteria for Provision of Electrically Powered Indoor Wheelchairs (EPIC)**

**The client must satisfy the following conditions in order to be eligible for provision of an indoor powered wheelchair by the Wheelchair Service:**

Meet the basic criteria for provision of a wheelchair by City & Hackney Wheelchair Service.

- Be unable to functionally walk or self-propel a manual wheelchair within their home or have a medical condition which contra-indicates self-propelling of a wheelchair.
- Have a home environment that is suitable for powered mobility as assessed by the Wheelchair Service.

If the above criteria are met the client's ability to drive an indoor powered wheelchair will then be assessed by the Wheelchair Service. An indoor powered wheelchair will only be provided if the client is assessed as having the potential to use an indoor powered wheelchair safely and independently within the home environment.

#### **Please note:**

The Wheelchair Service may seek further medical advice about individual clients from their GP or relevant consultant if deemed necessary.

##### **Criteria for Provision of Electrically Powered Indoor/Outdoor Wheelchairs (EPIOC)**

**The client must satisfy the following conditions in order to be eligible for provision of an indoor/outdoor powered wheelchair by the Wheelchair Service:**

Meet the basic criteria for provision of a wheelchair by City & Hackney Wheelchair Service.

- Be unable to functionally walk or self-propel a manual wheelchair effectively within their home or have a medical condition which contra-indicates self-propelling.
- Have a home and outdoor environment that is suitable for powered mobility as assessed by the Wheelchair Service.

If the above criteria are met the client's ability to drive a powered indoor/outdoor wheelchair safely will then be assessed by the Wheelchair Service. A powered indoor/outdoor wheelchair will only be provided if the client is assessed as having the potential to use a powered indoor/outdoor wheelchair safely and independently or with minimal supervision within the home and outdoor environment (including road safety). Where supervision is required the supervisor's level of competence will be assessed.

Where a client meets the criteria for provision of a powered wheelchair and there are concerns about alcohol or substance misuse additional investigations and risk assessments may be undertaken prior to the commencement of assessment.

**Please note:**

- The Wheelchair Service will seek further medical advice about individual clients from their GP or relevant consultant as part of the initial assessment process.
- Powered indoor/outdoor wheelchairs are issued for full time permanent use both indoors and outdoors.
- Powered indoor/outdoor wheelchairs will NOT be provided for outdoor use only.
- Clients who can functionally walk indoors will not be eligible for issue of a powered indoor/outdoor wheelchair.
- Powered indoor/outdoor wheelchairs will NOT be provided for occasional use.

**2. Data on powered wheelchair supply.**

Please supply the data listed below for the financial years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14.

2.1 Number of people who were registered with City & Hackney Wheelchair Service in each year.

Answer: 2011-12 = 403      2012-13 = 388      2013-14 = 441

The numbers above are for new clients who were registered in those years, NOT the total number of active/open clients in those years.

2.2. Number of people in each year who had a powered wheelchair which was entirely or partly funded by Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

Answer: 2011-12 = 31      2012-13 = 43      2013-14 = 20

2.3 Of the people above (2.2), the number who:

- a. had their powered wheelchair entirely funded by City & Hackney Wheelchair Service

Answer: 94

- b. had their powered wheelchair partly funded by City & Hackney Wheelchair Service

Answer: 0

2.4 Specify whether City & Hackney Wheelchair Service has, in the time period specified above, jointly funded a powered wheelchair with any of the following:

- a. Education authorities (y / n) No
- b. Access to Work (y / n) No
- c. Charities (y / n) No

2.5 Amount spent by City & Hackney Wheelchair Service per year on funding for the supply of powered wheelchairs

The Trust deems this information to be commercially sensitive and as such is exempt under section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

2.6 Number of refurbished powered wheelchairs issued to people per year by City & Hackney Wheelchair Service

Answer:

2011-12 = 12 reconditioned (4 unknown if recon or new it was not recorded)

2012-13 = 13 reconditioned (6 unknown if recon or new it was not recorded)

2013-14 = 4 reconditioned (2 unknown if recon or new it was not recorded)

### **3. Use of third parties for powered wheelchair supply and servicing.**

3.1 Does City & Hackney Wheelchair Service use a third party contractor (eg equipment supply company or CIC) to supply wheelchairs? If so which?

No

3.2 Does City & Hackney Wheelchair Service use a third party contractor (eg equipment Supply Company or CIC) to service wheelchairs? If so which?

Elmsleigh Invacar