Name

Your address goes here

email:

Adult Social Care Team

Address of your local authority goes here

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

**Re: A review of my financial assessment for non-residential social care charges**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to request a review of my financial assessment. In particular, I am asking you to review and take into account my Disability Related Expenditure (DRE).

**Para 8.2 of the Care and Support Statutory Guidance** issued by the Department of Health makes it clear that councils can only charge me what I can reasonably afford to pay. The Guidance further makes it clear that I should be left with a minimum income guarantee to promote independence and social inclusion and ensure I have sufficient funds to meet basic needs such as purchasing food, utility costs or insurance.

The Care and Support Guidance also states in para 8.42 that where a person receives benefits to meet their disability needs, the charging arrangements should ensure that they keep enough money to meet these disability-related costs.

I believe the way my assessment was carried out and the calculations do not ensure I keep enough money to meet my disability-related expenses. Therefore, I am asking you to consider the following DRE I have identified below, which I estimate adds up to £91 per week. The calculations used to estimate my DRE are at the end of the letter.

**DRE Expenditure**

Here are the items I spend money on because I am disabled: -

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Expense Type** | **Item** | **Annualised Cost\*** | **Weekly Cost** | **Weekly DRE Claim** | **Why I need this item** |
| Equipment | Wheelchair @ £3900.00 | £390 | £7.5 | £7.5 | I need to use a wheelchair as I can no longer walk safely due to dementia. I am at risk of falling over when I go out. There is a long NHS waiting list, so I had to buy my own to retain my independence and quality of life |
| Equipment | stair lift @ £10000.00 | £1000 | £19.23 | £19.23 | I am at risk of falling over when I go up and down the stairs |
| Help in the home | Help with cleaning @ £22.00 | £1144 | £22 | £22 | I experience tremors and weakness in my hands and arms and if find it painful to grip cleaning equipment making cleaning impossible |
| Help in the home | Help with gardening @ £27.00 | £324 | £6.23 | £6.23 | I am unable to look after my garden as I cannot bend down. It is also painful to grip gardening tools |
| Computers, mobiles & technology | Internet & broadband @ £41.00 | £492 | £9.46 | £9.46 | I use the internet to keep in contact with friends and family which helps to reduce social isolation, anxiety and depression |
| Health & wellbeing | Prescription costs @ £7.50 | £90 | £1.73 | £1.73 | I pay for prescription creams to help with itching which would otherwise keep me up during the night |
| Help in the home | Help with window cleaning @ £11.00 | £572 | £11 | £11 | I’m unable to clean the windows inside or outside as I cannot safely balance on a ladder. And I also find it painful to grip window cleaning equipment. |
| Transport & getting around | Fuel for motability car | Taxi fares @ £60.00 | £720 | £13.85 | £13.85 | Public transport is inaccessible, and I need a Motability car therefore to keep in contact with friends and family, to go shopping and participate in leisure activities. |

**\***See Appendix at the end of the letter

I would like you to recalculate my contribution taking into account my DRE listed above. Please give detailed reasons if you do not consider the items above DRE. I’ve incurred some of the expenses for a while. Therefore, I am asking you to consider backdating your recalculation

**What I want as an outcome of this complaint**:

* A recalculation of my contribution
* The council to consider backdating my recalculated contributions
* A change in how you do financial assessments and assess disability-related expenditure which ensures everyone who needs to is supported to identify their DRE.

Yours faithfully,

**Appendix – Calculations**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Classification** | **Calculation** |
| Specialist equipment over £1000 | Actual cost paid, divided by 500 (10-year life |
| Equipment costing £100 – £1000 | Actual cost paid, divided by 250 (5-year life) |
| Equipment costing less than £100 | Actual cost paid, divided by 52 weeks |
| Heating | Actual gas and electricity paid, averaged over one year, minus the annual average amounts (please refer to the table below) |

**Heating annual average amounts**:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Figures for 2022/23** | **Standard** | **N East/E Midlands** | **N West/ W Midlands** |
| Single person - Flat Terrace | £1,438.41 | £1,559.22 | £1,741.69 |
| Couple – Flat/Terrace | £1,897.75 | £2,055.05 | £2,295.42 |
| Single person – Semi Detached | £1,527.77 | £1,656.11 | £1,849.93 |
| Couples – Semi Detached | £2,016.90 | £2,180.90 | £2,436.37 |
| Single – Detached | £1,858.73 | £2,013.54 | £2,252.63 |
| Couples – Detached | £2,450.21 | £2,654.08 | £2,966.18 |

**Transport allowance amounts:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **PIP/DLA Mobility Component** | **Weekly Allowance** |
| No mobility component | £0.00 |
| Standard rate | £26.90 |
| Enhanced/Higher rate | £71.00 |
| Motability car | £0.00 |