

## Question:

Please may you provide me with the below information around direct payments for care as outlined on 'https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/direct-payments-care'. Northern HSC Trust have denied this applies to them hence asking DoH.

1. Eligibility criteria for direct payments for 'short breaks', and policy on how much and how often these can be had
2. Eligibility criteria for direct payments for 'after-school or holiday care to help you stay in work' including 'employing someone to support your child' as outlined on the aforementioned nidirect webpage.

## Response:

The Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) of the DOH do not have eligibility criteria with regards to direct payments. The attached documents 'A Guide to Receiving Direct Payments (appendix 1) and 'Direct Payments User Guide' (appendix 2) provide further information.

Understanding the needs of children in Northern Ireland (UNOCINI) framework is used. This is completed by a Social Worker and eligibility will be guided by the assessment. Every case is treated on an individual basis, there is no standard number of hours allocated per child or family.

*Appendices may be requested from the Information Management Branch (IMB) if required at the following address:*

[FOI@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:FOI@health-ni.gov.uk)

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