

Reference Number:	FOI20186661CT	24 May 2018
Date Received:	21-Mar-18	
You Requested:	Requestor: Chris Todd	

I am gathering information on bus and public transport provision as part of the Save our Buses campaign, which maps cuts to bus services across the country. We know that the Government has made deep cuts to local authority budgets, and that this is having an effect on the provision of local bus services. We would like to gather a national picture of bus cuts, so that we can explain to central Government exactly how their decisions are having an impact across the country.

My questions are as follows (in each case I am only after the information for your authority):

1. What is the agreed total budget for supported bus services in the fiscal year 2018/19
2. What was the total spend for supported bus services in the fiscal year 2017/18?
3. What was the total spend for supported bus services in the fiscal year 2016/17?

Note: This refers to the Department for Transport's definition of a supported bus service as: "one where a local transport authority has invited tenders for the operation of a service (not e.g. seats on a bus or subsidised tickets etc), and a contract exists as a result of that tender". Please, exclude extra sources of funding such as Section 106/developer funding, Community Infrastructure Levy, local authority staffing and publicity, RTPI expenditure and revenue, the Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG), Local Education Authority funding for home to school transport, NHS-funded non-emergency patient transport, social services transport, voluntary transport and other central and national government grants or income streams.

4. How many and which supported routes are likely to have cuts in services in the fiscal year 2018/19 (for example loss of weekend or evening services)?
5. How many and which supported routes have had cuts in services in the fiscal years 2016/17 and 2017/18 (for example loss of weekend or evening services), listed for each year?

6. How many and which supported routes are likely to be completely withdrawn in the fiscal year 2018/19?

7. How many and which supported routes have been completely withdrawn in the fiscal years 2016/17 and 2017/18, listed for each year?

8. How many and which of the previously supported routes have been taken on commercially?

Our campaign also seeks to promote examples of councils which have protected bus services, sometimes in innovative ways. Please do feel free to share any information you feel is relevant on how your council has protected bus services.

Our Response:

1. £3,082,437

2. £3,090,870

3. £3,062,960

Note: the responses to 1,2 and 3 are net of funding from the North East Combined Authority, Devolved BSOG Grant, section 106 funding, and contributions from Durham University.

4. No cuts planned

5. Service 214 Thornley – Peterlee Bracken Hill Business Park (works minibusservice, operating only at AM / PM peaks) withdrawn Dec 2017 due to no remaining passengers.

6. None

7. None

8. No previously supported routes have been taken commercially. However, in connection with review of contract services prior to contract renewal, Go North East took on one or more journeys in 10 services, and Arriva took on 7 journeys.

Attachments: None

Exemptions Applied: None
The Public Interest Test: Not applicable
Review Procedure <p>I hope that this information is of assistance. However, if you feel that this particular request has not been complied with fully under the terms of the Act then please put your grounds in writing stating exactly why our interpretation of the Act and guidance has been incorrect and email that to: foi@durham.gov.uk.</p> <p>After you have exhausted our internal appeals procedure, you also have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at: Telephone: 01625 545 745 Email: casework@ico.org.uk</p>
Christine Paciorek Freedom of Information and Data Protection Officer Information Management Team Durham County Council