

Educational Rights Alliance

PAUL JOHNSON
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES &
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Our Ref: 2866196

Please ask for: Alison McCallum
Date: 29 November 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information, which we received on 17 October 2017. Please see our responses below and accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to your request.

Regulation 6 Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 sets out the advice that the Local Authority must secure as part of an Education Health and Care Needs Assessment. Part of that Regulation requires that advice and information in relation to social care is obtained during the EHC Needs Assessment.

Please advise the following with regard to EHC Needs Assessments from Sep 2014 to date, on a year by year basis. Do include new applications and transfers from Statement of SEN and LDA.

1. How many EHC Needs Assessments were carried out?

2014 = 164

2016 = 173

2015 = 127

2017 = 236

*2. How many of (1) included a social care assessment? **See below***

*3. How many of (2) were new to social care? **See below***

*4. Where a social care assessment was NOT carried out as part of the EHC Needs Assessment for a child or young person NEW to social care, what social care advice was provided? **See below***

We are unable to provide a response to questions 2, 3 and 4. Please see the explanation below.

Finding, retrieving and preparing information takes employees' time consequently we are allowed to consider costs. If based upon an hourly rate of £25 the cost exceeds the 'appropriate limit' then the public authority can refuse to fulfill the request. For

Local Authorities the 'appropriate limit' is set at £450 (which equates to 18 hours).

Thus we are refusing to supply the information. In not supplying the information the Council is relying upon exemption – Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which provides an exemption in so far as the Council is not obliged to comply with a request for information if the Council estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit.

The information requested in questions 2, 3 and 4 is not recorded electronically and we have estimated that it would take approximately 240 hours to manually locate, retrieve and extract the information as each of the 1450 pupil records would need to be read through to find the information. This would take at least 10-15 minutes for each file.

I hope this information is of interest and assistance and once again I apologise for the delay in responding to your request. If however you are dissatisfied with the response you have received and wish to request a review of our decision or make a complaint about how your request has been handled you should write to the following address or reply to the email to which this letter is attached:

Corporate Information Governance Manager
Resources Directorate
ICT and Information Governance
Council House, Manor Square
Solihull, West Midlands
B91 3QB

Your request for an internal review should be submitted to us within 40 days of receipt by you of this response. Any requests received after this time will be considered at the discretion of the Corporate Information Governance Manager.

If having exhausted the review process you are not content that your request or review has been dealt with correctly, you have a further right of appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO will not make a decision until you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the council. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 (national rate). Website: www.ico.org.uk.

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours faithfully

Alison McCallum
Performance Support Officer
Corporate Performance, Policy and Information