



REQUEST | 17156

This is an information request regarding Sickness Absence for Education Personnel in LA-maintained primary, Secondary, and Special/ PRU schools.

Please include the following information for 2022/23, 2023/24:

1. Total number of days lost for schools within the authority due to sick days.
2. Total number of days lost to Mental Health issues for schools within the authority
3. Total number of educational personnel who required sickness absence on mental health grounds for schools within the authority
 - *By education personnel, I mean any staff member who works in a school – e.g., Headteacher, deputy, teacher, support staff, admin staff, etc.*
 - *By Mental Health issues, we mean any staff member who required sickness absence due to anxiety, stress, depression, or any other mental health-related reason.*

RESPONSE

Please note that not all maintained primary, secondary and special/PRU schools buy back Wigan Council's Payroll Service Level Agreement (SLA). For the purpose of FOI 17156, the total number of maintained schools reported is on the basis of data extracted from Wigan Council's Payroll system for the requested reporting periods/questions asked:

Financial Year	Total Number of 'Reported' Maintained Schools
2022-23	90
2023-24	89

1. There was a total of **36,057.91 days** lost for the reporting period **April 2022-March 2023**. **April 2023-March 2024** saw a total of **32,585.91 days** lost.
2. For absences connected with 'Anxiety/Stress/Depression/Other Psychiatric Illness' (personal or work-related), for the reporting period **April 2022-March 2023** there was a total of **7,856 days** lost. A total of **6,740.5 days** were lost for **April 2023-March 2024**.
3. A total of **358** educational personnel were sickness absent as a result of 'Anxiety/Stress/Depression/Other Psychiatric Illness' (personal or work-related), for the reporting period **April 2022-March 2023**. **April 2023-March 2024** saw a total of **314** absent educational personnel due to mental health. Please note both totals are representative of all related mental health absences including those educational personnel with multiple absences.