



REQUEST 17431

I would like to ask for the following figures for the 2023-24, 2022-23 and 2021-22 academic years. Please break the figures down into each year:

1. How many pupils were permanently excluded in your schools in these years?
2. Councils have a legal duty to arrange suitable full-time education for excluded pupils from the sixth school day after their exclusion took place. Please can you tell me how many of these pupils were *not* in full-time education from the sixth day of their exclusion?
3. What was the average length of time to place a child in suitable full-time education in each year?
4. What was the longest wait recorded for an excluded child to receive suitable full-time education for each year?
5. For children not in full-time education after the sixth day, please can you provide a table showing what sort of education they were being provided? (ie, none, online tutoring, etc)

RESPONSE

The following data is for Wigan resident pupils permanently excluded from maintained and academy schools/AP provision where Wigan LA was responsible for providing education.

1.
2021-22 = 92
2022-23 = 92
2023-24 = 131

2, 3, 4 and 5

We do not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) relieves a public authority from the obligation to comply with a request for information where the estimated time required to locate, review and extract the information exceeds a certain threshold set out in Regulations.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/3244) set out the rules in relation to the cost limit (otherwise called the “appropriate limit”). These Regulations are published by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) and are viewable on their web site from this link: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/uksi_20043244_en.pdf

The Regulations set out the cost limit for Government departments and for other public authorities. For local government, Regulation 3 states that the cost limit is £450 and Regulation 4(4) states that the prescribed hourly rate is £25. Regulation 4(4) further provides that where the local authority estimates the time taken to gather the information would exceed this limit (which based on the prescribed hourly rate, equates to 18 officer hours), it may refuse the request under section 12 of FoIA.

I am satisfied the cost limit applies to your request and will explain why this is the case as to access this data would involve manually accessing records for 305 pupil records at approximately 4 minutes to review the information and record it review etc)

However, we can state that our interim offer for pupils who are on the waiting list for or who cannot be accommodated at our commissioned AP is 1:1 tutoring, face to face. We only use online or hybrid provision in a very small minority of cases for a limited time if there is no face-to-face tutor immediately available.