

Under Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

- 1) Number of hours of EHCP OT provision commissioned annually
- 2) Number of hours of EHCP OT provision that is unfulfilled at this current moment
- 3) Number of children waiting for OT assessments to form their EHCP
- 4) What proportion of your organisation's annual requirement for EHCP OT provision is delivered by an outsource independent provider?
- 5) If you commission an independent provider to deliver the OT element of EHCPs' on your behalf, please can you advise what commissioning mechanism you use:
 - a) Through frameworks
 - b) Direct relationships
 - c) Preferred Supplier lists
 - d) Other (please elaborate)
- 6) Where is your framework published?
- 7) Who are your current Paediatric preferred suppliers for providing EHCP OT provisions
 - a) Name of supplier
 - b) Cost per assessment
 - c) Cost per treatment session
 - d) Travel and mileage costs
- 8) Do you have a ceiling price for commissioning occupational therapy EHCP OT provision?
- 9) If yes, please give indicate costs for:
 - a) Cost per assessment
 - b) Cost per treatment session
 - c) Travel and mileage costs
- 10) Who is the main contact/team responsible for EHCP provision and allocation of therapy?
 - a) Name
 - b) Job title
 - c) Email
 - d) Telephone number

Response

- 1) 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.

Details of commissioned Occupational Therapy may be included in the EHCP or annual review paperwork but to retrieve the information requested would require a manual trawl of over 2500 EHCPs. It would take a minimum of 15 minutes to review each file and this would equate to approximately 625 hours.

- 2) OT provision is commissioned by Health and we do not hold this information (*see *at response to Question 10*).
- 3) We do not hold this information
- 4) None of our LA commissioned OT support is provided by an independent provider
- 5) N/A
- 6) N/A
- 7) N/A
- 8) N/A
- 9) N/A
- 10) The council will not share details of staff below Third Tier. The Assistant Director for Education however is:

Cath Pealing
Tel - 01942 489453
Email - C.Pealing@wigan.gov.uk

*With regard to the provision of therapy this service lies with Wrightington Wigan & Leigh (WWL) NHS Trust. Contact details:-

Children's Occupational Therapy & Physiotherapy Services, Community Division.
Tel - 01942 482425