

Request

1. The total number of children that the Council funded transport from home to school in the financial year 2022/23 and the total cost for all such children.
2. The total number of children that the Council funded transport from home to school in the financial year 2022/23 and the total cost for children in foster care.
3. The total number of children that the Council funded transport from home to school in the financial year 2022/23 and the total cost for children with Special Educational Needs.
4. The total number of children that the Council funded transport from home to school in the financial year 2022/23 and the total cost for children whose nearest suitable school is beyond two miles (if below the age of eight) or beyond three miles (if aged between eight and 16).
5. The highest daily cost of home to school for any individual pupil in the financial year 2022/23.

Response

1. Total number that the Council funded transport in the financial year 2022/23 – 1671.

Total cost for all such children - £4,428,973

2. Total number that the Council funded transport in the financial year 2022/23 – 1671.

Total cost for all such children - £4,428,973

We do not hold the total cost for children in foster care.

3. Total number of children that the Council funded transport from home to school in the financial year 2022/23 -1671.

The total cost for children with SEND - £4,252,723

4. 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. In order to extract the information requested in Q4 would require a manual trawl through over 1671 records. Taking a conservative estimate of five minutes per record would take almost 140 hours which is far in excess of the 18 officer hours stipulated in the Freedom of Information Act.

5. Highest daily cost of home to school for any individual pupil in the financial year 2022/23 - £252