

REQUEST	16328
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1. How many consultations for places at maintained or academy trust run special schools did the council issue since September 1st 2022? Following the consultation process, how many pupils were given places at maintained special schools, how many were given places at academy trust run special schools, how many had entry deferred and how many have not been placed at maintained or academy trust run special schools?
2. How many pupils who were considered for consultation at maintained or academy trust run special schools since September 1st 2022 have now been placed in independent schools.

RESPONSE

At this time we are not able to provide the following information:

- The number of consultations for special schools placements (maintained and academy trust) since 1 September 2022
- The number of pupils given places at maintained and academy trust special schools
- The number of pupils who had entry deferred
- The number not placed in maintained or academy trust special schools
- The number placed in independent schools

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. The Council would need to review each pupil record - 3,000 records in total. It estimates that it would take 10 minutes per pupil record. This would therefore require more than 18 hours of work.