

REQUEST 16274

RESPONSE

1. Does your council have a policy setting out the circumstance where a Direct Payment paid by the council to a family to meet the needs of a disabled child may be requested to be repaid to the council?
2. If the answer to question 1 is yes, please provide a copy of that policy or explain why providing a copy of the policy is not possible.
3. If the answer to question 1 is no, or if you are unable to provide a copy of the policy as per question 2, please could you say in which circumstances your council would feel it appropriate to request repayment of direct payments made to meet the needs of a disabled child.
4. How many times in each of the last 5 years has your council requested direct payments to meet the need of a disabled child to be repaid to the council? e., this occurred 'x' times in 2019, 'y' times in 2020, 'z' times in 2021, etc.
5. For your reply to question 4, please can you specify if your figures relate to a calendar, financial, school, or other type of year.
6. If question 4 is not able to be answered due to the resources needed to obtain the information, please could you confirm whether ANY direct payments to meet the needs of a disabled child were requested to be repaid to the council in each of the last 5 years.
7. If questions 4 and 6 are not able to be answered due to the resources needed to obtain the information, please could the council explain the reasons why that information is not easily accessible and monitored by the management of the team responsible for disabled children's services or the management of the team responsible for direct payments.

This policy is in development.

Where there has been over spending of the Direct Payment. Where the Direct Payment has been spent on items/ services that have not been agreed as an assessed need or meet identified needs etc.
Where the child is no longer a child.
Where the child has not required the service to improve their outcomes.

These are the number of refunds (balances in excess of required support needs) received in each of the following financial years (will include the recovered balance of a DP package that ended)

| | |
|---------|-----|
| 2019/20 | 77 |
| 2020/21 | 71 |
| 2021/22 | 98 |
| 2022/23 | 70 |
| 2023/24 | 117 |

As above

N/A

N/A