

Request

I would like to request the following information concerning special educational needs:

1. What percentage of children who are due to receive an assessment for an educational health care plan (EHCP) receive an assessment within 20 weeks?
2. What is the equivalent percentage for the years: 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, and 2017?
3. How many children who are currently due to receive this assessment have been waiting for one for 20 weeks or longer?
4. How many requests for an assessment were there in the years: 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, and 2017?
5. For each of these years, what percentage of requests for an assessment did the council approve?

If you feel that it would be more appropriate to give these year-by-year figures in terms of school year (e.g. 2022-2023), then I would appreciate it if you could do so, so long as the information still goes back to September 2017.

Response

- 1 The 20-week timescale is the statutory process whereby the Council, in line with the Children and Families Act 2014, considers the initial request for an assessment, completes the assessment and makes the decision whether to issue an EHC Plan and issues the final EHC Plan.

At the end of 2023, Wigan Council issued 52.8% of EHC Plans within the 20-week timescale. This is provisional data and is subject to change until final publication by the Department for Education in June 2024.

- 2 Performance against the 20-week timescale is published by the Department for Education for all local authorities on an annual basis and is available here:- [Education, health and care plans: England 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/education-health-and-care-plans-england-2023)

The following information is taken from the DfE website for Wigan Council:

Time period	20-week Rate (including exceptions)	20-week Rate (excluding exceptions)
2017	90.8	97.4
2018	88.0	98.1
2019	92.5	98.6
2020	73.4	80.4
2021	72.9	83.5
2022	74.9	83.9

- 3 As of the 8 April 2024, 365 children and young people had an active assessment. Of these assessments, 66 were over the 20-week timescale.
- 4 This information is published by the Department for Education for all local authorities on an annual basis and is available here:- [Education, health and care plans: England 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/education-health-and-care-plans-england-2023)

The following information is taken from the DfE website for Wigan Council:

Time period	Number of initial requests for an EHC needs assessment
2017	340
2018	385
2019	326
2020	312
2021	523
2022	624

The data for 2023 shows that there were 748 initial requests for EHC needs assessments. This is provisional data and is subject to change until final publication by the Department for Education in June 2024.

- 5 This information is published by the Department for Education for all local authorities on an annual basis and is available here:- [Education, health and care plans: England 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-health-and-care-plans-england-2023)

The information below is the initial request for an assessment that were accepted (i.e. went on to be assessed):

Time period	% of initial requests that went on to assessment
2017	91.8%
2018	86.5%
2019	81.6%
2020	76.9%
2021	88.0%
2022	73.7%

The data for 2023 shows that 73.3% of initial requests received by the Council went on to be assessed. This is provisional data and is subject to change until final publication by the Department for Education in June 2024.