



Request

For each of the last two calendar years (2023 and 2024) could you please provide me with:

- The total number of applications to attend a special school (by which I mean a school that caters specifically for students with special educational needs) that have been rejected by your local authority?

Response

The information which you have requested on the number of applications to attend a special school and the decision made in relation to the request is not held on a central register/record.

Therefore, whilst Wigan Council does hold the information requested, it estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate time limit. This is because for one year's data the Council would need to review each pupil record– 2,900 records for 2023 and 3,500 for 2024. It estimates that it would take 10 minutes per pupil record. This would therefore require more than 18 hours of work and therefore the Council is applying section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act as follows:

12. — (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. (2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit. (3) In subsections (1) and (2) "the appropriate limit" means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases. (4) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority- (a) by one person, or (b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign, the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated.