



**Wigan[♥]
Council**

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding the legal costs incurred by your authority in relation to SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) tribunals.

Specifically, I would like to know:

1. The number of SEND appeals lodged against the council in each of the financial years 2018/19, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25.

Wigan Council's SEND tribunal appeals data is not held for 2018/19 and will not be included in this request.

2022/23 – 11 appeals
2023/24- 26 appeals
2024/25 – 39 appeals until 31/05/2025
2. The number of SEND appeals that proceeded to a full tribunal hearing in each of the financial years 2018/19, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25.

2022/23 - 2
2023/24 – 0
2024/25 – 2 until 31/05/2025
3. Of those appeals, in the financial years 2018/19, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25, how many were upheld, partially upheld or dismissed?

2022/23 – 3 upheld, 8 withdrawn
2023/24 – 6 upheld, 20 withdrawn
2024/25 – 5 upheld, 13 withdrawn, other appeals are still active until 31/05/2025 (Upheld being classed as where either party have conceded prior to a hearing but it is classed as being upheld. Some parents withdraw at that point and other have to be closed via a consent order)
4. What was the total amount spent on legal fees for SEND tribunal cases for each of the financial years 2018/19, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25? Please include all associated costs, such as external legal counsel, getting expert witnesses and administrative expenses.

Wigan Council use in-house legal services for SEND tribunal appeals. There has been no additional SEND tribunal related costing for 2023 or 2024.