



### Request

My request relates to Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA) and Education Health and Care plans (EHC plans). I am looking for data relating to the number of times Emotional Based School Avoidance or EBSA is mentioned in EHC plans held by your council over the past seven years. Specifically, please could you provide the following:

- For each of the academic years 18/19, 19/20, 20/21, 21/22, 22/23, 23/24, and 24/25, the total number of EHC plans held by your authority.
- In each of the academic years 18/19, 19/20, 20/21, 21/22, 22/23, 23/24, and 24/25 the number of EHC plans held by your council at some point in that year which mention Emotional Based School Avoidance or EBSA".

If data is not available for the whole period requested, please instead provide it from the earliest academic year available up until the most recent available at the point of production.

To assist you in responding to this request, I have attached a spreadsheet which can be filled in with the information required.

### Response

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](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:

Wigan Council SEND Team currently hold 3749 live EHCP's which would need to be individually reviewed for EBSA detail or involvement as this is not information currently held; this would take over 30 hours (this is working on an average of 10 mins per review of an EHCP).