



REQUEST 18963

DSG deficits

1. Please state the cumulative (i.e. multi-year not in-year) Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) net surplus or deficit position on 31st March 2024
2. Please state the cumulative DSG net surplus or deficit position on 31st March 2025
3. Please state the most recent forecast of the cumulative DSG net surplus or deficit position for 31st March 2026. Please state what month or quarter of the financial year this forecast is correct to.
4. Please state the most recent forecast of the cumulative DSG net surplus or deficit position for 31st March 2028
5. If the council is forecasting an in-year DSG deficit in 2025/26, what percentage of the council's total DSG grant funding for 2025/26 is this in-year deficit equal to? For the purpose of this question, an in-year deficit should be measured relative to a balanced outturn, rather than being measured relative to any pre-planned in-year deficit.
6. In what financial year is the cumulative DSG deficit currently forecast to be cleared? This question does not apply if there is both no deficit at present and no deficit forecast for future years
7. If the council's DSG reserve is currently in a cumulative deficit position, has the council estimated (or calculated) the annual direct or indirect cost to the council of carrying this deficit – and if so, what is that estimated/calculated annual cost? This cost may arise in a number of ways, potentially including (these are all real examples from councils):
 - a. the direct cost of interest on borrowing to fund or effectively cover the DSG reserve deficit
 - b. the deficit reducing the council's ability extent to internally borrow from its working capital balances, thus forcing the council to borrow externally quicker than it otherwise would at high interest rates
 - c. carrying a deficit means the council has access to less cash than it would otherwise, meaning the council effectively forgoes potential interest on investment, increasing pressure on the General Fund

RESPONSE

Please see template for answers.

NMISS placement costs

8. For each academic year from 2022/23 to 2025/26 inclusive, how many SEND children with council-funded EHCPs were placed in non-maintained independent special schools (NMISS) **within** the local authority area?
9. For each academic year from 2022/23 to 2025/26 inclusive, what was the average cost to the council per child (i.e. unit cost) of funding a SEND child with a council-funded EHCP to go to an NMISS school **within** the local authority area (please use a forecast/estimate for 2025/26 if necessary)?
10. For each academic year from 2022/23 to 2025/26 inclusive, how many SEND children with council-funded EHCPs were placed in non-maintained independent special schools (NMISS) **outside** the local authority area?
11. For each academic year from 2022/23 to 2025/26 inclusive, what was the average cost to the council per child [i.e. unit cost] of funding a SEND child with a council-funded EHCP to go to an NMISS school **outside** the local authority area (please use a forecast/estimate for 2025/26 if necessary)?
12. For each academic year from 2022/23 to 2025/26 inclusive, how many SEND children with council-funded EHCPs were placed in state-sector special schools?
13. For each academic year from 2022/23 to 2025/26 inclusive, what was the average cost to the council per child (i.e. unit cost) of funding a SEND child with a council-funded EHCP to go to a state-sector special school (please use a forecast/estimate for 2025/26 if necessary)?
14. For each academic year from 2022/23 to 2025/26 inclusive, how many SEND children with council-funded EHCPs were placed in mainstream state schools?
15. For each academic year from 2022/23 to 2025/26 inclusive, what was the average cost to the council per child (i.e. unit cost) of funding a SEND child with a council-funded EHCP to go to a mainstream state school, factoring in both baseline funding and any top-ups (please use a forecast/estimate for 2025/26 if necessary)?

Please see template for answers.

Prepared on financial year basis as estimated time to prepare on academic year basis would be in excess of allowed hours for FOI preparation

Schools in deficit

16. Please provide a list of maintained schools that registered a cumulative revenue deficit at the end of 2024/25

WIGAN MABS CROSS J & I
ATHERTON PARKLEE J & I
A-IN-M ST. THOMAS' C.E. J & I
LOWTON ST. LUKE'S C.E. J & I
A-IN-M ST.OSWALD'S R.C. J & I
ASPULL HOLY FAMILY R.C. J & I
ST WILFRID'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY
HINDLEY GREEN SACRED HEART RC J & I
WIGAN ST. JOHN FISHER R.C. HIGH
ORRELL ST. PETER'S RC HIGH

17. Please provide a list of maintained schools that are forecast to register a cumulative revenue deficit at the end of 2025/26

LOWTON J & I
WOODFIELD
WORSLEY MESNES
CHOWBENT
ASHTON ST. WILFRID'S
ASHTON ST. OSWALD'S
ASHTON ST. THOMAS'
ASPULL HOLY FAMILY
HOWE BRIDGE ST. MICHAEL'S
ST. BENEDICT'S
LEIGH ST. MARY'S
LOWTON ST. LUKE'S
ASTLEY ST. STEPHEN'S
ST. CUTHBERT'S
ST. MARY & ST. JOHN
ST. PETER'S HIGH
ST. JOHN FISHER
LOWTON HIGH

18. Please provide a list of maintained schools that are forecast to register a cumulative revenue deficit at the end of 2027/28

19. Please provide a list of maintained schools that are forecast to register a cumulative revenue deficit three years in a row

20. Please provide copies of the existing deficit reduction plans of maintained schools in the council area as agreed by the council

We are currently still reviewing the 3-year budget plans submitted by schools and so at this stage we are unable to confirm those schools that are likely to have a cumulative revenue deficit by the 31/03/2028.

Further to a number of clarification issues 2025/26 existing deficit reduction plans are still in the process of being agreed and signed off by the Council.