



Please can you provide me with the following information in Excel format:

1. What was your total children's social care budget in each year since 2009.
2. What has been the number of children receiving funding or services from children's social care for your area in each year since 2009.
3. How many residential care workers and agency staff involved with children's social care have you employed in each year since 2009, broken down by location, role, and salary band.
4. Please provide figures for the annual amount of legal fees paid from your children's social care budget in each year since 2009.
5. How much of your children's social care budget has been spent on taxi fares, bus fares, and other hired transport in each year since 2009.
6. What is the average and largest distances to schools covered by funding from your children's social care budget.
7. Please provide anonymised individual figures for the top hundred children that have the highest cost in your children's social care budget for each year since 2009.

For questions 1, 3 and 5, please see separate spreadsheet. For question 5, please note our financial system only holds records from April 2011 onwards.

For questions 2, 4 and 7, 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 (which equates to 18 officer hours). I am satisfied the cost limit applies to these questions and will explain why this is the case.

For questions 2 and 7, we do not have this information to hand as our case management system does not directly correlate with our finance system and so there would be a need to trawl through hundreds of thousands of individual transactions on our finance system to attempt to accurately answer the question for the timespan requested which would take in excess of the maximum allowable time detailed above. In addition, there is no guarantee that the invoices would reference costs back to individual children (even through initials).

For question 4, we do not separately report on this and the cost centre that includes legal fee payments also covers pre-court toxicology and forensic testing for example. There were 762 individual transactions on this cost centre in 2024/25 which would need to be assessed to see if the cost related to a legal fee paid from the Children's social care budget. Over the timespan this would involve scrutinising over 10,000 individual invoices in less than 1080 minutes.

For question 6, the average is 12.96 miles and the largest distance covered is 41.69 miles. This is based on the distance of the overall route journey and not the average distance per child. The calculated figures above are measured from the designated pick-up location of the passenger assistant, collecting all passengers along the way to school and then returning the passenger assistant back to their designated location.