



## **REQUEST 19359**

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

1. The average cost of EHCPs per URN (school identifier) for each school in your local authority area for each of the past five years.
2. How many EHCP pupils are enrolled per URN (school identifier) for each school in your local authority area for each of the past five years.
3. The average EHCP cost per pupil based on their primary SEND need in state and independent schools in your local authority area for each of the past five years; and the number of pupils with each need per school type (state vs independent).

### *Notes:*

*Cost of EHCPs in independent schools: please include the total cost of the EHCP to the local authority covering money paid directly to schools and any funding paid to parents.*

*Cost of EHCPs to state schools: Please can you include all the funding provided from the Dedicated Schools Grant to the school for that pupil's EHCP, whether from the schools block or high needs block.*

I would like you to provide the information in the following format: Excel spreadsheet.

## **RESPONSE**

After careful consideration, we are unable to comply with your request. This is because the cost of locating, retrieving and extracting the information you have requested would exceed the appropriate limit as set out in Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

### **Reason for Refusal – Section 12 (Cost Exceeds Limit)**

The information you have requested is not held in the format specified. To respond, the Council would be required to manually review each individual EHCP case and extract the relevant details before compiling the information into the requested Excel format.

As of 2 March 2026, Wigan has 4,131 children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan.

We estimate it would take:

- 5 minutes per case to review and identify the information required  
→ 4,131 cases × 5 minutes = 20,655 minutes (~344 hours)
- Plus an additional 2 hours to collate the data into the requested format

The total time required is therefore approximately 346 hours, far exceeding the statutory limit of 18 hours (equivalent to £450 of officer time).

Under Section 12 of the Act, the Council is therefore not obliged to comply with the request, nor to create new information for the purpose of responding.