

Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) Request ID: FOI540752501

Thank you for your request for information relating to school transport.

You have requested the following information:

1. The total number of children that the Council funded transport from home to school in the financial year 2022/23 and the total cost for all such children.

The total number of students that the SEN Team funded travel for between September 2022 and July 2023 was 1,136. The cost of providing SEN travel assistance for the financial year 2022/2023 was £5,468,582.

The total number of students that the Looked After Children transport budget funded between September 2022 and July 2023 was 34. Provision of travel assistance for children looked after is included in the overall travel assistance budget. During the academic year 2022/23, the Council provided travel assistance to 34 Looked After Children. It is not possible to extract the exact cost, because children may have had shared transport arrangements. The estimated recorded cost based on proportionality is £301,221.

2. The total number of children that the Council funded transport from home to school in the financial year 2022/23 and the total cost for children in foster care.

25 children in foster care received travel assistance at an estimated cost based on proportionality of £236,541. This does not include arrangements made by other Local Authorities for Coventry children placed in their area for which inter-authority recoupment arrangements apply.

3. The total number of children that the Council funded transport from home to school in the financial year 2022/23 and the total cost for children with Special Educational Needs.

The total number of the above which were for students with SEN (a current EHCP) was 1,134. Please note that this is for September 2022 to July 2023.

The cost of SEN Team funded travel for the financial year 2022/2023 was £5,468,582.

4. The total number of children that the Council funded transport from home to school in the financial year 2022/23 and the total cost for children whose nearest suitable school is beyond two miles (if below the age of eight) or beyond three miles (if aged between eight and 16).

We hold the information which you have asked for, but we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £450 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004). This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or more, in determining whether the information is held, locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The information is held a non-reportable format. It would require an officer to manually review each record to determine what information is held relevant to your request and collate the information. It has been estimated that the manual trawl will exceed the 18-hour limit under the Act. This part of your request has therefore been refused under section 12(2) of the Act.

5. The highest daily cost of home to school for any individual pupil in the financial year 2022/23.

£190.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: <u>FOI/EIR Disclosure Log</u>, <u>Publication Scheme</u>, <u>Facts about Coventry</u> and <u>Open Data</u> that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infoqov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance