



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI681484774**

Thank you for your request for information relating to fraudulent school admission applications.

You have requested the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), I would like to please request the below information. This is regarding applications for school places that have been made/are suspected to be made using fraudulent information.

1. Does the council have a system/procedures for detecting fraudulent school admission applications? If so, please provide details of what these are. Please include if any new procedures have been introduced in the past few years.

The Local Authority undertakes a variety of filtering activities when checking application information to ensure the accuracy of information provided on applications including visits to check the whereabouts of a child. Where fraud is detected during the application process parents are notified and correct information/details are used. If these matters do not come to light until after offers are made, then places will be withdrawn.

2. How many applications have you investigated on suspicion of being fraudulent in the past three academic years? (2023-24 / 2022-23 / 2021-22).

We confirm that we do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. The Local Authority does not record the number of investigations into suspected fraudulent applications.

3. How many of these applications were found to be fraudulent? Please break this figure down by primary/secondary schools, if this is possible.

Please see table below:

	Primary	Secondary
2023/2024		1
2022/2023		4
2021/2022	2	

4. For the fraudulent applications, please include further details of what the offence was / which school the application was for / and what the outcome of the investigation was. (Please include as much detail about the offences as possible.)

In five cases parents provided details of an address which was not their main residence. Alternative correct addresses were used to allocate places.

In the other cases parents provided incorrect information that the child was previously looked after, or a child of a staff member. Places were withdrawn when details were identified prior to starting at school and alternative schools were allocated.

5. Overall, how many fraudulent applications for each year were:

a) Not accepted?

Please see response to question 3.

b) Resulted in a child being removed from school after application found to be fraudulent?

Nil.

6. Please include the number of fraudulent applications that led to appeals by parents, and the number of appeals that won.

No data on appeals is available from the Local Authority on whether appeals were held for all of the fraudulent applications. We do hold details that in one case a place was offered where an appeal was successful.

7. Did any of these offences result in prosecution? If so, please provide details.

No.

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For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication](#)

[Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) 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: infogov@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