



**Information Governance Team**

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17 September 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**  
**Request ID: FOI744521504**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Data on the supply by public libraries of digital books to children and young people across the UK.

You have requested the following information:

**The questions that follow will be sent to all local authority providers of library services in the UK.**

**DIGITAL**

**1 Who is/are the current supplier(s) of digital books (ebooks and eaudio books) to your public library?**

Bolinda.

**2 Which other suppliers of digital books (ebooks and eaudio books) have you used in the last 10 years?**

Overdrive and Press Reader.

**QUANTITY**

**3 How many physical books do you currently have available to borrow aimed at children, defined as readers aged under 18 years old?**

154,823.

**4 How many ebooks do you currently have available to borrow aimed at children, defined as readers aged under 18 years old?**

2,138.

**5 How many eaudiobooks do you currently have available to borrow aimed at children,**

**defined as readers aged under 18 years old?**

1,961.

**6 How many physical books do you currently have available to borrow classified as 'juvenile'?**

We do not use the classification "juvenile."

**7 How many ebooks do you currently have available to borrow classified as 'juvenile'?**

We do not use the classification "juvenile."

**8 How many eaudiobooks do you currently have available to borrow classified as 'juvenile'?**

We do not use the classification "juvenile."

**9 How many physical books do you currently have available to borrow classified as 'young adult'?**

14,065 this figure is included in answer to Question 3.

**10 How many ebooks do you currently have available to borrow classified as 'young adult'?**

699 this figure is included in answer to Question 4.

**11 How many eaudiobooks do you currently have available to borrow classified as 'young adult'?**

505 – this figure is included in answer to Question 5.

## **SPEND**

**12 What is your current pa spend on physical books?**

**13 What is your current pa spend on ebooks?**

**14 What is your current pa spend on eaudiobooks?**

**15 What is your current pa spend on physical books classified as 'adult'?**

**16 What is your current pa spend on ebooks classified as 'adult'?**

**17 What is your current pa spend on eaudiobooks classified as 'adult'?**

**18 What is your current pa spend on physical books classified as 'juvenile'?**

**19 What is your current pa spend on ebooks classified as 'juvenile'?**

**20 What is your current pa spend on eaudiobooks classified as 'juvenile'?**

**21 What is your current pa spend on physical books classified as 'young adult'?**

**22 What is your current pa spend on ebooks classified as 'young adult'?**

**23 What is your current pa spend on eaudiobooks classified as 'young adult'?**

In regards to Questions 12 to 23, it is confirmed that the Council does hold information pursuant to your request. However, it is our view that the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 43(2) – Commercially Sensitive Information. Section 43(2) exempts information from disclosure where disclosure of that information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).

It is the Council's position that the third-party providers and its own commercial interests would be prejudiced and/or would be likely to be prejudiced by the disclosure of the requested information.

Once the information is disclosed this means that it will be in the public domain and it could not only be used by the requester but also any other providers in a similar market.

## Arguments in favour of disclosure.

- Promote accountability and transparency for the Council's decisions and in its spending of public money.
- Assist the public to understand and challenge our decisions.
- Inform the public of the activities carried out on their behalf, allowing for more user involvement

and collaborative decision making.

- Enable the public to better scrutinise the public monies spent

#### Arguments against disclosure.

- There is a public interest in allowing public authorities to withhold information which if disclosed, would reduce providers' ability to compete in a commercial environment.
- The successful providers operate in a competitive market. If prejudicing the commercial interests of the successful providers in the market would distort competition in that market, this would not be in the public interest.
- Disclosure of information may cause unwarranted reputational damage or loss of confidence in the Council.
- Revealing information such as a pricing mechanism can be detrimental to a provider's commercial interest. If an organisation has knowledge of a provider's business model, it can exploit this for its own commercial interest. This would also have a detrimental impact on the Council on other contracts and procurements by distorting the market, for the reasons stated above.

Having considered the arguments for and against disclosure, the Council has decided that the public interest in this case is best served by maintaining the exemption under section 43(2) FOIA and by not disclosing the information requested.

The decision to withhold the information requested is therefore upheld on the basis that Section 43(2) in relation to commercially sensitive information has been applied correctly.

## **USAGE**

### **24 How many book lends did you make in 2025?**

Between 1st April 2025 and 31st July 2025 142,449.

### **25 How many book lends did you make in 2024?**

Between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025 466,678.

### **26 How many books were not lent out at all in 2025?**

We do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. We do not collect this data.

### **27 How many books were not lent out at all in 2024?**

We do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. We do not collect this data.

### **28 How many lends of ebooks did you make in 2025?**

Between 1st April 2025 and 31st July 2025 11,888.

### **29 How many lends of ebooks did you make in 2024?**

Between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025 31,210.

### **30 How many ebooks were not lent out at all in 2025?**

We do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. We do not collect this data.

### **31 How many ebooks were not lent out at all in 2024?**

We do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. We do not collect this data.

### **32 How many lends of ebooks aimed at children - defined as readers aged under 18 years old - did you make in 2025?**

5,740.

### **33 How many lends of ebooks aimed at children - defined as readers aged under 18 years old - did you make in 2024?**

6,226.

**34 How many ebooks aimed at children - defined as readers aged under 18 years old - were not lent out at all in 2025?**

We do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. We do not collect this data.

**35 How many ebooks aimed at children - defined as readers aged under 18 years old - were not lent out at all in 2024?**

We do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. We do not collect this data.

**2025 data**

**40 How many lends of eaudiobooks did you make in 2025?**

Between 1st April 2025 and 31st August 2025 - 23,698.

**41 How many lends of eaudiobooks did you make in 2024?**

Between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025 - 51,909.

**42 How many eaudiobooks were not lent out at all in 2025?**

We do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. We do not collect this data.

**43 How many eaudiobooks were not lent out at all in 2024?**

We do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. We do not collect this data.

**44 How many lends of eaudiobooks aimed at children - defined as readers aged under 18 years old - did you make in 2025?**

Between 1st April 2025 and 31st August 2025 4,496.

**45 How many lends of eaudiobooks aimed at children - defined as readers aged under 18 years old - did you make in 2024?**

Between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025 10,355.

**46 How many eaudiobooks aimed at children - defined as readers aged under 18 years old - were not lent out at all in 2025?**

We do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. We do not collect this data.

**47 How many eaudiobooks aimed at children - defined as readers aged under 18 years old - were not lent out at all in 2024?**

We do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. We do not collect this data.

**BOOKLIST**

**52 Please provide a list of all the isbn's for the physical books you currently offer in your library service aimed at children - defined as readers aged under 18 years old.**

The information you requested falls under the exemption(s) in Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which relates to 'information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means.'

The exemption applies as the information is published and publicly available to view by accessing the Council website, please use the following link:

<https://librarycatalogue.coventry.gov.uk/#/>

**53 Please provide a list of all the isbn's for the ebooks you currently offer in your library**

**service coded as juvenile or 'young adult'. This information will be available from your digital book supplier.**

This data is publicly available via Coventry City Library - use the link below:

<https://coventry.borrowbox.com/>

**54 Please provide a list of all the isbn's for the eaudiobooks you currently offer in your library service coded as juvenile or 'young adult'. This information will be available from your digital book supplier.**

See response to Question 53.

## **CONTACT**

**55 Please provide the contact details of the department at your local authority responsible for library services to people aged under 18 years.**

Libraries and Information Service

Address: Central Library

Smithford Way

Coventry

CV1 1FY

Telephone: 024 7683 2314

Email: [libraries247@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:libraries247@coventry.gov.uk)

## **REPORTING**

**56 Please provide a list of the data categories you collect relating to library borrowings.**

Membership Number, Library, Details of item, Date of issue, renewal and return

**57 Please provide a list of the data categories you collect from your digital book supplier relating to library borrowings.**

Membership Number, Library, Details of item, Date, Issue, renewal and Return

## **SCHOOLS**

**58 Do you currently operate a scheme with schools in your area for the school to register their pupils with your public library service?**

No.

## **SYSTEMS**

**59 What library management system do you use?**

Axiell Spark.

## **SELECTION**

**60 Who selects the physical books in your collection?**

Library Service and Suppliers.

**61 Who selects the ebooks in your collection?**

Library Service and Suppliers.

**62 Who selects the eaudiobooks in your collection?**

Library Service and Suppliers.

**63 What criteria is used to select the physical books in your collection?**

This information is available from the Library website at Library policies – Coventry City Council.

Use the link below:

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/libraries-1/library-policies/2>

**64 What criteria is used to select the ebooks in your collection?**

This information is available from the Library website at Library policies – Coventry City Council.

Use the link below:

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/libraries-1/library-policies/2>

**65 What criteria is used to select the eaudio books in your collection?**

See response to Question 64.

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: [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](mailto: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](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk).

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

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**