



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI757096942

Thank you for your request for information relating to Deaf Pupils and Sign Language/Communication Support.

You have requested the following information:

Please treat this as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. We would like to request the following information for the period between 1 September 2019 – 31 July 2025, unless otherwise stated.

For the purposes of this request, the term “deaf” is used inclusively to encompass pupils recorded as deaf, hard of hearing, hearing impaired, deafened, or similar descriptors, including those identified as British Sign Language (BSL) users. If information is not available under “Deaf,” please provide figures for the SEND category “hearing impairment” or any other terms as described above or similar.

1. Deaf Pupils (Numbers)

The total number of pupils identified as deaf in your schools, by academic year.

Academic Year	No of deaf children
2019-20	419
2020-21	416
2021-22	417
2022-23	412
2023-24	418
2024-25	414

2. Interpreter / Communication Support Worker Provision

The number of deaf pupils formally provided with sign language interpreters or Communication Support Workers (CSW), by academic year.

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.

We do not record this information in a summary format. To obtain this information we would have to manually check individual pupils' records which we estimate will exceed 18 hours. This part Your request has been refused under section 12(2) of the Act.

3. Requests for Support : The number of requests made by parents/carers for sign language interpreter or Communication Support Worker support, and how many were:

a) Granted in full

b) Granted in part

c) Refused and with reasons for refusal, if recorded

No child has been refused sign language support.

The majority of referrals are received at birth by NHS and on some occasions by parents, health professionals and education settings.

If a child moves into the area at a later age parents don't request support , it is offered as part of the New Born Hearing Screening Protocols and our Sensory Team Offer.

Communication methods and types are discussed and decided on in full consultation with the family.

4. Appeals / Complaints

The number of appeals or complaints made against your decisions regarding sign language / communication support in education, and the outcomes of those appeals / complaints.

None.

5. Spend on Support

The total annual spend on sign language interpreting and communication support services in education, broken down by financial year.

In regards to the total amount spent on sign language interpreting and communication support services in education, we do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. This forms a part of the overall role of a variety of staff and expenditure incurred.

A separate account of spend relating specifically to sign language interpreting and communication support services in education is not recorded.

6. Policy & Guidance

Copies of any policies, guidance, or criteria used by the authority to decide on providing

communication support such as sign language interpreter and Communication Support Worker for deaf pupils, including any references to British Sign Language Act 2022.

Please see document attached.

7. Teachers of the Deaf

The number of Teachers of the Deaf (ToD) employed by your authority and how many hold the mandatory qualification for Teachers of the Deaf.

Academic Year	No of ToDs	Mandatory Qualification
2019-2020	7.8 FTE	All have mandatory qualification
2020-2021	7.5 FTE	6.7 FTE Have mandatory qualification 0.8 in training
2021-2022	7.5 FTE	5.9 FTE Have mandatory qualification 1.6 FTE in training
2022-2023	7.5 FTE	6.7 FTE have mandatory qualification 0.8 FTE in training
2023-2024	7.6 FTE	All have mandatory Qualification
2024-2025	7.6 FTE	All have mandatory qualification

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

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

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