



**Information Governance Team**

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

**Request ID: FOI766070691**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Dedicated Schools Grant deficits. We apologise for the delay.

You have requested the following information:

**DSG deficits**

- 1. Please state the cumulative (i.e. multi-year not in-year) Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) net surplus or deficit position on 31st March 2024**
- 2. Please state the cumulative DSG net surplus or deficit position on 31st March 2025**
- 3. Please state the most recent forecast of the cumulative DSG net surplus or deficit position for 31st March 2026. Please state what month or quarter of the financial year this forecast is correct to.**
- 4. Please state the most recent forecast of the cumulative DSG net surplus or deficit position for 31st March 2028**
- 5. If the council is forecasting an in-year DSG deficit in 2025/26, what percentage of the council's total DSG grant funding for 2025/26 is this in-year deficit equal to? For the purpose of this question, an in-year deficit should be measured relative to a balanced outturn, rather than being measured relative to any pre-planned in-year deficit.**
- 6. In what financial year is the cumulative DSG deficit currently forecast to be cleared? This question does not apply if there is both no deficit at present and no deficit forecast for future years**
- 7. If the council's DSG reserve is currently in a cumulative deficit position, has the council estimated (or calculated) the annual direct or indirect cost to the council of carrying this deficit – and if so, what is that estimated/calculated annual cost? This cost may arise in a number of ways, potentially including (these are all real examples from councils):**

- a. the direct cost of interest on borrowing to fund or effectively cover the DSG reserve deficit
- b. the deficit reducing the council's ability extent to internally borrow from its working capital balances, thus forcing the council to borrow externally quicker than it otherwise would at high interest rates
- c. carrying a deficit means the council has access to less cash than it would otherwise, meaning the council effectively forgoes potential interest on investment, increasing pressure on the General Fund

#### **NMISS placement costs**

8. For each academic year from 2022/23 to 2025/26 inclusive, how many SEND children with council-funded EHCPs were placed in non-maintained independent special schools (NMISS) within the local authority area?
9. For each academic year from 2022/23 to 2025/26 inclusive, what was the average cost to the council per child (i.e. unit cost] of funding a SEND child with a council-funded EHCP to go to an NMISS school within the local authority area (please use a forecast/estimate for 2025/26 if necessary)?
10. For each academic year from 2022/23 to 2025/26 inclusive, how many SEND children with council-funded EHCPs were placed in non-maintained independent special schools (NMISS) outside the local authority area?
11. For each academic year from 2022/23 to 2025/26 inclusive, what was the average cost to the council per child [i.e. unit cost] of funding a SEND child with a council-funded EHCP to go to an NMISS school outside the local authority area (please use a forecast/estimate for 2025/26 if necessary)?
12. For each academic year from 2022/23 to 2025/26 inclusive, how many SEND children with council-funded EHCPs were placed in state-sector special schools?
13. For each academic year from 2022/23 to 2025/26 inclusive, what was the average cost to the council per child (i.e. unit cost] of funding a SEND child with a council-funded EHCP to go to a state-sector special school (please use a forecast/estimate for 2025/26 if necessary)?
14. For each academic year from 2022/23 to 2025/26 inclusive, how many SEND children with council-funded EHCPs were placed in mainstream state schools?
15. For each academic year from 2022/23 to 2025/26 inclusive, what was the average cost to the council per child (i.e. unit cost] of funding a SEND child with a council-funded EHCP to go to a mainstream state school, factoring in both baseline funding and any top-ups (please use a forecast/estimate for 2025/26 if necessary)?

For Questions 1 to 15, please see the attached spreadsheet.

#### **Schools in deficit**

16. Please provide a list of maintained schools that registered a cumulative revenue deficit at the end of 2024/25

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 Government website, please use the following link:

<https://financial-benchmarking-and-insights-tool.education.gov.uk/>

Information on the reserves position for Coventry maintained schools as at the end of 2024/25 is publicly available on the DfE's Financial Benchmarking and Insights Tool.

**17. Please provide a list of maintained schools that are forecast to register a cumulative revenue deficit at the end of 2025/26**

Under Section 3(2)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, information is only considered "held" by a public authority if it is held for the purposes of the authority's own functions.

In this case, the requested information is held solely on behalf of the school(s) and not for the purposes of Coventry City Council's functions. Therefore, we do not hold this information for the purposes of the Act and are unable to provide it in response to your request.

**18. Please provide a list of maintained schools that are forecast to register a cumulative revenue deficit at the end of 2027/28**

**19. Please provide a list of maintained schools that are forecast to register a cumulative revenue deficit three years in a row**

In response to questions 18 and 19 above we are still assessing impact of recent DfE NFF announcement.

**20. Please provide copies of the existing deficit reduction plans of maintained schools in the council area as agreed by the council**

Not applicable.

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**