



Information Governance Team

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[REDACTED]

11 May 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI826588511**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Local authority-run school trusts.

You have requested the following information:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information held by the council relating to the local authority-run school trusts.

In 2022, 29 local authorities applied for spots on a government pilot to create local authority-run trusts: <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/29-areas-vie-for-spots-on-council-academy-trust-pilot/> I wanted to be sent:

- **Confirmation of whether it applied for the pilot**

Yes.

- **Confirmation of if it drew up proposals to create its own trust**

Yes.

- **A copy of the proposals, along with any relevant annexes and associated documents**

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.

- Disclosure of information may cause unwarranted reputational damage or loss of confidence in the Council.
- Releasing detailed proposals and annexes could prejudice relationships with current or potential partners, providers, and stakeholders who may be referenced or implicitly identifiable within the documentation. This could discourage external organisations from engaging with the Council in future initiatives.
- Disclosure would be likely to prejudice the Council's commercial and strategic interests, as it would reveal internal thinking, emerging models, financial assumptions, governance structures, and potential delivery approaches that remain relevant to future education-related initiatives. Making such information publicly available could undermine the Council's ability to develop and present proposals competitively in any future pilots, funding bids, or partnership discussions.

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.

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

Information Governance