

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 003559
Date 8 May 2019

Youth Services Expenditure

Request:

The data we are looking for and hope you can help with is the **planned expenditure on services for young people**, as agreed by your local authority, for each of the financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20.

The details of this request are set out below:

Data set	Planned expenditure on 'Services for Young People'
Data definition:	For the purposes of this request, the data provided should correspond with the definition of 'Service for Young People' used for the Local Authority Section 251 return - lines '3.5.1 Universal services for young people' and '3.5.2 Targeted services for young people.'
Time series:	1 st April 2018 to 31 st March 2019 1 st April 2019 to 31 st March 2020
Unit:	Agreed expenditure in £(,000)
Geography:	Local authority

With reference to the first part of your question regarding the year 2018-2019, your request for information has now been considered and the City of Wolverhampton Council is not obliged to supply the information you requested for the reasons set out below.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires City of Wolverhampton Council, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:

states the fact,
specifies the exemption in question and
states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies:

In relation to your particular request, the following exemption applies:

Section 21 – Information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means

We can confirm that the department holds information that you have asked for in relation to the above. However, the information is exempt under section 21 of the FOI Act because it is reasonably accessible to you, and I am pleased to inform you that you can access it via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/section-251-2018-to-2019#section-251-budget-data>

Section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act exempts disclosure of information that is reasonably accessible by other means, and the terms of the exemption mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information.

You can find out more about Section 21 by reading the extract from the Act, available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/21>

With reference to the second part of your question regarding the year 2019-2020, Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at:

- Section 1(1) (a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held.
- The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

Your request for information has now been considered and the City of Wolverhampton Council is not obliged to supply the information you requested for the reasons set out below.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires City of Wolverhampton Council, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies:

In relation to your particular request, the following exemption applies:

Section 22 – Information Intended for Future Publication

We can confirm that City of Wolverhampton Council hold the information requested however a Section 22(1)(a)(b)(c) – Information Intended for Future Publication exemption has been applied to the data thereby exempting its release.

Section 22((a)(b)(c) – Information intended for Future Publication

“(1) information is exempt information if-

- (a) The information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not)
- (b) The information was already held with a view to such publication at the time the request for information was made, and
- (c) It is reasonable in all circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph"

Section 22 is a qualified class-based exemption and consideration must be given as to whether there is a public interest in providing the information prior to the anticipated publication.

Public Interest Test

City of Wolverhampton Council is committed to recognise there is a strong public interest to demonstrate openness, transparency and accountability with regards to the Freedom of Information legislation particularly in relation to an individual's right to know. We recognise that disclosure would provide reassurance that the City of Wolverhampton Council is processing the requests that it receives in a timely manner particularly as it would indicate how we are meeting our obligations as outline in the provisions of the Act.

Considerations favouring Non-Disclosure

City of Wolverhampton Council is committed to publishing information however we do not consider that it is in the public interest to place information into the public domain, prematurely, before pre-publication procedures have taken place.

We have therefore reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this information under Section 22 of the Act at this time, however this data will be available publicly on the same link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/section-251-2018-to-2019#section-251-budget-data>