



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002629
Date 06 August 2018

School Admissions

Request:

I would like to request the following information, or as much of it that is held and available, from the Local Education Authority for each of the individual academic years: 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18.

1. The number of investigations carried out (or commissioned) by the LEA into suspected fraudulent school place applications?
Following reasonable enquiries, it has been established that the Council does not hold the above requested information. This is not recorded, information is only held on the number of actual places withdrawn.

Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("The Act"), that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".

2. The number of school place offers withdrawn, broken down into primary and secondary places?
2012/13 = 5 (all primary)
2013/14 = 1 (primary)
2014/15 = 0
2015/16 = 1 (primary)
2016/17 = 4 (all primary)
2017/18 = 0
3. The percentage of these withdrawals that led to appeals by parents?
2012/13 = 20% (i.e. 1 appeal)
2013/14 = 0
2014/15 = 0
2015/16 = 0
2016/17 = 0
2017/18 = 0

4. The percentage of these appeals won by parents?
2012/13 = 100% (i.e. 1 appeal)
2013/14 = 0
2014/15 = 0
2015/16 = 0
2016/17 = 0
2017/18 = 0
5. Details of the LEA's policy for detecting fraudulent school place applications?
Extract from The City of Wolverhampton Council admissions policy

“Fraudulent or Misleading Applications

The Local Authority will follow up any reports they receive that allege that a fraudulent or misleading application has been made.

Parents can alert the Local Authority of any potential fraudulent applications by contacting the Admissions and Appeals team. Contact details are published in the composite prospectuses.”

Plus, the below info, which is not limited to suspected fraudulent school place applications but to admission decisions in general.

Please note the figures below relate to actual appeals received for Wolverhampton Schools and then a % of those that were successful. It is not possible to provide a % of parents appealing against admission decisions as appeals for a Wolverhampton School can be made by a resident in any borough and therefore we do not hold this data.

6. The percentage of parents appealing against admissions decisions?
See below
7. The percentage of these appeals won by parents?
Following reasonable enquiries, it has been established that the Council does not hold the above requested information. We only hold accurate information for the last three years which is in line with the statutory guidance.

Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“The Act”), that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".

However, to advise and assist you under Section 16 of the FOIA, please find our response below:

2016/2017:

Appeals Received for Normal Year of Entry = 509

Percentage upheld = 2.27%

2017/2018:

Appeals Received for Normal Year of Entry = 452

Percentage Upheld = 2.65%