Wolverhampton
City Council

Response to Request for Information

Reference   FOI 101549
Date   8 October 2015

Children Moving Schools

Request:
I would like to request information held by your local authority on the numbers of school aged children (5-16) that have moved schools within your local authority.

Please provide:

1. The number of children in your local authority that have transferred between schools during term time in the academic years; 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15.

   2010
   With reference to question 1 for the year 2010, I can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 this is because the information for 2010 is mixed in with other admissions data as it was held in different locations to the other years you asked for. To undertake this exercise would take us approximately 587 hours.

   The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 2.5 days of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

   "(a) determining whether it holds the information,

   (b) locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,

   (c) retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information, and

   (d) extracting the information from a document containing it".

   For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities

should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.

As such I believe that the aggregated time that it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).

2011 – 2404
2012 – 2887
2013 – 2902
2014 - 3537

2. The reason for their transfer.

    Following reasonable enquiries, it has been established that the Council does not hold the above information. Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, as per Section 1(1)(a) of the Act:

    "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".

3. Of these children, how many were permanently transferred to a new school.
    All of the above.

4. The school year these children were in when they moved.
    With reference to question 4 above, I can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 as this would involve a manual trawl through all the children's records for the last 5 years which would take us approximately 587 hours.

    The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 2.5 days of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

    "(a) determining whether it holds the information,

    (b) locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,

    (c) retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information, and

    (d) extracting the information from a document containing it".

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As such I believe that the aggregated time that it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).