CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
C O U N C I L

Response to Request for Information

Reference   FOI 111595
Date   17 November 2015

Special Education Costs

Request:
I would like to request information held by your local authority on the amount of money spent on sending children to special schools.

Please provide:

1.   The total costs for each of last three academic years (2014-15, 2013-14, and 2012-13) of home to school transport for children with special educational needs.

2.   The special educational need designation of each child who receives home to school transport.

3.   The distance each journey covers, from home to the school and vice versa.

Following careful consideration, the Council regrets to inform you that it has decided not to disclose this information.

Information you have requested has been withheld from disclosure. The exemption engaged is Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

Section 12 of the FOI exempts Public Authorities from providing information where the estimated cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Any estimate must be undertaken in accordance with the limits set in fees regulations made under Section 12 (5) of the FOI.

These Fees Regulations (SI 2004/3244 Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations) allow for a refusal where the cost of compliance, for local authorities such as the Council, would exceed £450. As a guide, staff time to identify and extract this information is charged at a rate of £25 per hour.

In summary to provide the information you have requested it would take us approximately three days (21 hours) to compile as the information is not held centrally in one place and therefore information would need to be cross referenced with other services.

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".