


From: Freedom of Information Requests
Sent: 15 May 2025 16:57
To: 
Subject: 
Attachments: 
Importance: 

Good afternoon

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 14 April 2025, for information about SEND tribunal appeals.

Please find below City of Doncaster Council's responses to the questions you have raised.

Request:

1. How much money did the council spend on SEND tribunal appeals during each of the following calendar years: 2022, 2023, 2024. Depending on what information the council records, this should preferably include tribunal appeals that did not ultimately reach a formal tribunal hearing
Re "spend" in question 1, I am looking for the total costs associated with processing and defending SEND appeals and tribunal hearings, including legal costs such as instructing external solicitors, commissioning expert witnesses etc.

Response:

Please see attached spread sheet.

Request:

2. How many appeals were registered with the SEND tribunal in each of the following calendar years in relation to decisions made by the council: 2022, 2023, 2024?

Response:

Please see attached response.

Request:

3. How many appeals registered with the SEND tribunal did the council concede prior to a formal tribunal hearing taking place in each of the following calendar years: 2022, 2023 and 2024?

Response:

Please see attached spread sheet.

Information for reporting years 2022 and 2023 is exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and has not been provided as the information requested is third party personal data (i.e. personal data about someone other than you). Section 40 (2) provides that information which is third party personal data is exempt from disclosure if one of three conditions is satisfied. In this case the following condition applies:

1. Disclosure would contravene one of the data protection principles

The information you have requested is personal data and has not been provided in this case as City of Doncaster Council believes that the release of this information, along with such low numbers to

responses (this is below 5), could specifically lead to the identification of an individual, who otherwise would not expect their personal information to be released into the public domain.

Request:

4. How many times did the SEND tribunal rule in favour of the council in each of the following calendar years: 2022, 2023, 2024?

Response:

Please see attached spread sheet.

Information for reporting year 2024 is exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and has not been provided as the information requested is third party personal data (i.e. personal data about someone other than you). Section 40 (2) provides that information which is third party personal data is exempt from disclosure if one of three conditions is satisfied. In this case the following condition applies:

1. Disclosure would contravene one of the data protection principles

The information you have requested is personal data and has not been provided in this case as City of Doncaster Council believes that the release of this information, along with such low numbers to responses (this is below 5), could specifically lead to the identification of an individual, who otherwise would not expect their personal information to be released into the public domain.

Request:

5. How many times did the SEND tribunal rule against the council in each of the following calendar years: 2022, 2023, 2024?

“SEND tribunal” refers to the Special Educational Needs and Disability First Tier Tribunal. This is an independent national tribunal which decides appeals against local authority decisions about the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) of children and young people.

If for data protection reasons the figures cannot be broken down by year, please collate the figures over the three-year period. If calendar year figures are unavailable please provide figures for financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 and state that these time periods are being used.

If the information for any question cannot be sourced within the section 12 cost limit, please mark that question as “information not held” and respond to the remainder of the request. NB this is *not* asking the council to run the clock up to the section 12 cost limit – it may be that one question would take 30 hours and the other questions would take three hours combined. In such a case, I am asking for the 30-hour question to be marked “information not held”.

I would like the information sent by email in the attached spreadsheet.

Response:

Please see attached spread sheet.

Information for reporting year 2022 is exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and has not been provided as the information requested is third party personal data (i.e. personal data about someone other than you). Section 40 (2) provides that information which is third party personal data is exempt from disclosure if one of three conditions is satisfied. In this case the following condition applies:

1. Disclosure would contravene one of the data protection principles

The information you have requested is personal data and has not been provided in this case as City of Doncaster Council believes that the release of this information, along with such low numbers to responses (this is below 5), could specifically lead to the identification of an individual, who otherwise would not expect their personal information to be released into the public domain.

I hope that this information is useful to you.

City of Doncaster Council estimates that it has cost £49.00 to respond to this request for information.

Reviewing any decisions made:

If you are not happy with this reply you can ask us to review our response. To do this write to us within 40 working days of receiving your response at the address below or email FOIAppeals@doncaster.gov.uk

If you do not agree with the review decision you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision about our compliance or otherwise with the Freedom of Information legislation. Contact details for the ICO are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. www.ico.org.uk Telephone 0303 123 1113.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy McMahon

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