

Archived: 15 July 2025 12:45:42

From: [FOI Responses](#)

Sent: 20 June 2025 11:50:02

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Freedom of Information Response [REDACTED]

Importance: Normal

Sensitivity: None

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 12th June 2025 for information about special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) tribunals. Please find below City of Doncaster Council’s responses to the questions you have raised.

Question 1: The number of SEND appeals lodged against the council in each of the financial years

Response:

Year	Number
2018/19	0
2022/23	18
2023/24	64
2024/25	114

Question 2: The number of SEND appeals that proceeded to a full tribunal hearing in each of the financial years

Response:

Year	Number
2018/19	0
2022/23	1
2023/24	5
2024/25	1

Question 3: Of those appeals, in the financial years, how many were upheld, partially upheld or dismissed?

Response:

Year	Number
2018/19	0
2022/23	1
2023/24	4
2024/25	1

Question 4: What was the total amount spent on legal fees for SEND tribunal cases for each of the financial years 2018/19, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25? Please include all associated costs, such as external legal counsel, getting expert witnesses and administrative expenses.

Response: The City of Doncaster Council claimed no expenses.

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,

Sophie Ormshaw

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Please treat the content of this e-mail as confidential. If you have received this e-mail and it is not addressed to you please accept my apologies and inform me as soon as possible.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 June 2025 10:40
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] SEND Freedom Of Information Request

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Allow sender](#)

Good morning,

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding the legal costs incurred by your authority in relation to SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) tribunals.

Specifically, I would like to know:

1. The number of SEND appeals lodged against the council in each of the financial years
2. The number of SEND appeals that proceeded to a full tribunal hearing in each of the financial years
3. Of those appeals, in the financial years 2018/19 how many were upheld, partially upheld or dismissed?
4. What was the total amount spent on legal fees for SEND tribunal cases for each of the financial years 2018/19, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25? Please include all associated costs, such as external legal counsel, getting expert witnesses and administrative expenses.

If you are experiencing any issues in complying with my request, please do not hesitate to contact me. If for any reason there are elements of my request that you cannot comply with - be it because information is not held, or because it engages an absolute or qualified exemption, please still respond to any other elements of my request which do not fall under these exemptions.

For any information relating to my request that is not held, in line with your S16 duties, please give as much context as possible for why this information is not held in the way requested, as well as any advice on similar information which may be held and any relevant information about how similar information is processed/indexed, that could help me in refining my request.

In the event of any qualified exemptions being engaged, please provide me with the relevant public interest test you have carried out, including arguments for both withholding and disclosure that are specific to the requested information.

In the event of any absolute exemptions being engaged, that have similar built-in tests - for example, the legitimate interests test in S40 or the public interest factors in what counts as 'actionable' in S41 - please also provide me with evidence that you have carried out those tests.

If this request is deemed to be going over cost-time limits, in line with your S16 duties, please give as detailed advice as possible on the best ways to refine the request.

