

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001662
Date 07 November 2017

Disability Equipment

Request:

Please can you advise the overall spend on disability equipment (for example seating and standing) for children with special needs within the following periods;

2015/2016 - Actual spend
2016/2017 - Actual spend
2017/2018 – Budgeted

In response to your request, we have established that the Council does not hold the above information as a distinct set able to be retrieved or reported on. Thus we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) 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..."

To undertake this work would exceed the statutory cost limit under Section 12 of the Act.

Section 12 of the Act 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 Act.

To clarify further, any information regarding overall spend on disability equipment for children with special needs would be held at individual file level and the Council have no way of collecting this information, other than to go through all the relevant records.

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.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

To advise and assist you under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act we are able to provide the total expenditure for purchase of and repairs and maintenance of equipment which is below:

2015-2016 - actual = £887,139
2016-2017 - actual = £892,737
2017-2018 - budget = £658,000