

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002055
Date 9 March 2018

Children's Play Areas

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request copies of the following:

- The number of children's play areas were managed by the local authority in each year since 2009-10.

	Traditional Play	Natural Play	Total
2009-2010	47	27	74
2010-2011	47	27	74
2011-2012	47	28	75
2012-2013	47	29	76
2013-2014	49	27	76
2014-2015	50	24	74
2015-2016	51	23	74
2016-2017	50	20	70

- The number of children's play areas that have been built or refurbished by the local authority in each year since 2009-10.

Number of play areas built:

	Traditional Play	Natural Play
2009-2010	1	27
2010-2011	0	1
2011-2012	0	0
2012-2013	1	1
2013-2014	2	0
2014-2015	1	0
2015-2016	1	0
2016-2017	0	0

Number of play areas refurbished:

	Traditional Plan	Natural Play
2009/10	0	0
2010/11	0	0
2011/12	1	0
2012/13	1	0
2013/14	0	0
2014/15	2	0
2015/16	3	0
2016/17	1	0

- The number of children’s play areas (existing and planned) that have been closed or cancelled because of cuts to the local authority’s budget in each year since 2009-10.

Number of play areas closed:

	Traditional Plan	Natural Play
2009-2010	0	0
2010-2011	0	0
2011-2012	0	0
2012-2013	0	1
2013-2014	0	1
2014-2015	0	3
2015-2016	1	0
2016-2017	1	3

- The amount spent by the Local Authority on children’s play areas in each year since 2009-10, broken down by:
 - how much money has been spent on maintenance of existing areas and

Budget for play area maintenance (includes play areas/skate parks/multiball courts/fitness equipment)

Year	£
2009-2010	91,140
2010-2011	116,480
2011-2012	101,480
2012-2013	156,290
2013-2014	118,240
2014-2015	110,460
2015-2016	109,350
2016-2017	84,350

- how much money has been spent on building new areas.
In respect of your above question, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold all of the above information as several new build play areas, which are part of a new housing development Section 106 Agreement, were paid for and constructed by the developers.

Consequently, we are unable to provide all of the information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of 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".

However, we can provide you with the following information. Please note that the data below does not include capital expenditure on refurbished play areas.

Year	£
2009-2010	1,473,000
2010-2011	0
2011-2012	117,000
2012-2013	180,000
2013-2014	0
2014-2015	60,000
2015-2016	64,000
2016-2017	121,000

- A list of the children's play areas for which the local authority has introduced usage charges, and for each of those the date that the charge was introduced and value of the charge in each year since 2009-10.
Wolverhampton City Council has not introduced any usage charges for children's play area since 2009-10.
- The number of children's play areas proposed for closure within the next year.
Currently there are no plans to close any play areas within the next year.
- The estimated number of children in the local authority area.
Please see table supplied on page 5.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Age (Single Year)	Wolverhampton
Age Under 1	3,521
Age 1	3,570
Age 2	3,669
Age 3	3,618
Age 4	3,729
Age 5	3,682
Age 6	3,528
Age 7	3,320
Age 8	3,499
Age 9	3,265
Age 10	3,133
Age 11	3,103
Age 12	2,966
Age 13	2,798
Age 14	2,772
Age 15	2,819
Age 16	2,930
Age 17	3,116
Age 18	3,139