

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002177
Date 12 April 2018

Home Schooling

Request:

- 1) How many school enforcement orders have been issued in the last five years?
0
- 2) How many inspections have you carried out at homeschooling households in order to find if the children are not receiving a suitable education in the last five years?

In response to question 2, your request for information has now been considered and the City of Wolverhampton Council is not obliged to supply all of the above information you requested for the reasons set out below.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires City of Wolverhampton Council, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies:

In relation to your particular request, the following exemption applies:

Section 12 - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

We can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information.

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 18 hours of work). 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.*

For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.

The information appertaining to the years before 2016-2017 is not easily accessible and as such this information is not held as a distinct set able to be retrieved or reported on. To get the information regarding the year 2016-2017 would require a full scale look into all individual records. This would be a manual exercise and as such we believe that the aggregated time it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).

However, we can provide information relating to the remaining years you have asked for as follows:

Every family is offered a home visit by our Elective Home Education Officer, the following were completed (academic years):

2016/17	= 420
2017/18 (to date)	= 310

- 3) How many times have you had to intervene during these inspections, at homeschooling households, if it appears that the children are not receiving a suitable education in the last five years?

In response to question 3, your request for information has now been considered and the City of Wolverhampton Council is not obliged to supply all of the above information you requested for the reasons set out below.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires City of Wolverhampton Council, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:

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However, we can provide information relating to the remaining years you have asked for as follows:

2016/17	= 3
2017/18 (to date)	= 0