

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 002852  
Date            10 October 2018

### ***SENDIST casework***

#### **Request:**

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act.

I require the following information for the periods: 1<sup>st</sup> Sept to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18.

1. Your LEA's total budget for SEND provisions –  
**High Needs Block Funding**
  - 2014/15 = £26.51 million
  - 2015/16 = £25.84 million
  - 2016/17 = £23.3 million
  - 2017/18 = £25.12 million
2. The amount spent by your LEA on SENDIST casework. This should include any money spent preparing for, or during SEND tribunals.  
**Following reasonable enquiries, it has been established that the Council does not hold the above requested information.**

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

3. The amount of money allocated to internal counsel for SENDIST casework? **As per question 2.**
4. The amount of money spent on external legal advice for SENDIST casework.
  - 2014/15 = £1,000
  - 2015/16 = £5,287
  - 2016/17 = £2,635
  - 2017/18 = £15,385

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

5. Where external legal advice was used please state the name of the contracted company and how much it was paid.

We do not have any contract with any firm of solicitors or barristers' chambers. We decide on a case-by-case basis whether Counsel is needed (legally privileged meetings). If we decide we need Counsel, we procure Counsel in accordance with our procurement procedures (same as any other legal case) looking for best value and the most appropriate Counsel of those available. We are not restrained by any contract.