

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 0316124
Date 22 March 2016

School Converting to an Academy

Request:

1. How much on average does it cost the local authority when a school converts to an academy, including in legal fees?
In the past 2 years, costs of conversion has varied from £1,282 to £43,700 (for a complicated case with PFI related building) per school for 17 schools.
2. How much money the local authority has spent on academy conversions since 2010 including legal fees?

In respect of question 2, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold all the above information as we moved to a new system in 2013 and the historic information was not migrated. Consequently, we are unable to provide information relating to the years 2010-2013, 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, in relation to conversions after April 2013. There have been 17 conversions with a total cost of £129,400.

3. How much school deficit has remained with the local authority since 2010 after schools have converted to academy status?
In relation to 3 schools the total confirmed deficit is £1,782,433.
In relation to a further school the position is yet to be finalised however the estimated deficit is £425,000.

4. How much will it cost the local authority to convert schools not currently academies to academy status?
In respect of question 4, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above 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 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".

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]