

Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam.

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: REQ07698**

Thank you for your request for information relating to the usage and cost of MISs for school.

You have requested the following information:

Each value should be segmented by School type (Primary, Secondary, etc.) and year including 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20 and forecast 2020/21.

1. Is the Local Authority planning to make their SSU independent?

There are no current plans for making our SSU independent.

2. Are you planning on running a tender process for new MIS/SIS providers in the next 12 to 24 months?

There are no current plans for running a tender process.

a. Is this for all schools or if it is just for some? If just for some, what proportion?

b. What is the split of schools of b. by Primary, Secondary and other school types?

For Questions 2a and 2b, these are not applicable. Please refer to Question 2.

3. Does the Local Authority support one or multiple MIS/SIS?

One.

4. The number of schools supported by the Local Authority (LA) owned SSU

There are 61 maintained schools supported by Coventry City Council of which 59 are primary schools, 1 secondary school and 1 nursery. Additionally, there are 32 Academies of which 12 are secondary schools and 21 primary schools.

5. The total amount paid (£) by schools to the LA owned SSU (broken down by total, support services and licences)

6. The total amount paid (£) by the LA owned SSU to MIS/SIS providers (broken down by total, support services and licences)

7. The total amount paid (£) by the LA owned SSU to Capita SIMS (broken down by total, support services and licences)

For Questions 5 to 7, it is confirmed that the Council does hold information pursuant to your request. However, it is our view that the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 43(2) – Commercially Sensitive Information. Section 43(2) exempts information from disclosure where disclosure of that information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).

It is the Council's position that the third-party providers and its own commercial interests would be prejudiced and/or would be likely to be prejudiced by the disclosure of the requested information.

Once the information is disclosed this means that it will be in the public domain and it could not only be used by the requester but also any other providers in a similar market.

Arguments in favour of disclosure.

- Promote accountability and transparency for the Council's decisions and in its spending of public money.
- Assist the public to understand and challenge our decisions.
- Inform the public of the activities carried out on their behalf, allowing for more user involvement and collaborative decision making.
- Enable the public to better scrutinise the public monies spent

Arguments against disclosure.

- There is a public interest in allowing public authorities to withhold information which if disclosed, would reduce providers' ability to compete in a commercial environment.

- The successful providers operate in a competitive market. If prejudicing the commercial interests of the successful providers in the market would distort competition in that market, this would not be in the public interest.
- Disclosure of information may cause unwarranted reputational damage or loss of confidence in the Council.
- Revealing information such as a pricing mechanism can be detrimental to a provider's commercial interest. If an organisation has knowledge of a provider's business model, it can exploit this for its own commercial interest. This would also have a detrimental impact on the Council on other contracts and procurements by distorting the market, for the reasons stated above.

Having considered the arguments for and against disclosure, the Council has decided that the public interest in this case is best served by maintaining the exemption under section 43(2) FOIA and by not disclosing the information requested.

The decision to withhold the information requested is therefore upheld on the basis that Section 43(2) in relation to commercially sensitive information has been applied correctly.

8. Whether the Local Authority uses one or multiple MIS/SIS

One.

9. Whether the Local Authority is looking to run a tender process for new MIS/SIS providers in the next 12 to 24 months

Please refer to Question 2.

10. The number of schools expected to switch from Capita SIMS to another MIS/SIS provider in the next 12 to 24 months

There are no schools expected to switch at this time.

11. Whether the Local Authority is planning to make their SSU independent

Please refer to Question 1.

The supply of information in response to a freedom of information request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email casework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance