



## Information Governance Team

Postal Address:  
Coventry City Council  
PO Box 15  
Council House  
Coventry  
CV1 5RR

[www.coventry.gov.uk](http://www.coventry.gov.uk)

E-mail: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

Phone: 024 7697 5408

24 May 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)  
Request ID: FOI330294708**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Special Educational Needs first tier tribunals.

You have requested the following information:

**This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. Please can you tell me how much the council has spent on instructing solicitors/barristers for Special Educational Needs first tier tribunals, upper tribunals and judicial reviews in each year since 2013/14.**

**Please break down the total by cost per case and please provide a summary of the reason for each case e.g. parent seeking council funds to cover the cost of their child's education.**

We do not hold this information and are advising you as per section 1(1) of the Act. This forms a part of the overall role of a variety of staff and a separate account of time spent relating to tribunals is not recorded. Coventry City Council does not keep a record of the reason for each individual case.

**If possible, please provide the outcome of each case i.e. the panel/judge upheld the**

**council's decision, the panel/judge overturned the council's decision and for each hearing please include whether the parent had legal representation or if they were a litigant in person.**

**Please also include how many cases were settled before they went to hearing, or where one party cancelled the hearing please state whether this was the local authority or the parent.**

We do not hold all the information you have requested above and are advising you as per section 1(1) of the Act.

Please see below details of the information we do hold:

<b>Academic year</b>	<b>Number of mediations</b>	<b>Tribunals averted</b>	<b>Number of appeals lodged</b>	<b>Number conceded by LA</b>	<b>Number withdrawn before hearing</b>	<b>Number of Appeals upheld</b>	<b>Number of Appeals dismissed</b>
2017/2018	7	5	30	9	17	1	2
2018/2019	12	6	29	8	7	2	0
2019/2020			27	16	9	2	0
2020/2021			17	5	4	1	0

Conceded: when the Local Authority concedes before a case statement has been submitted.

Withdrawn: when parents have withdrawn, and issues have been resolved.

As at 18 May 2021 there were 7 appeal hearings waiting to be heard.

Published data can be accessed at the links below:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/265399/send-tribunal-stats-tables.xls](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/265399/send-tribunal-stats-tables.xls)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/71](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/71)  
appeal-rate-table-q4-2017-18.ods

We therefore do not need to disclose all the information as per Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act.

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](mailto: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 [icocasework@ico.org.uk](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk).

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

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**