



**Information Governance Team**

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01 December 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

**Request ID: FOI374598935**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Education Psychologists.

You have requested the following information:

**1. The number of education psychologists employed directly by the council in a)2009-10 b) 2018-19 c) 2019-20 d)2020-21**

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
16	17	18

In relation to 2009/10 figures, we can confirm that we do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. In accordance with the Council's Retention and Disposal Schedule, we no longer hold the information requested.

**2. The number of vacancies within the council for education psychologists in a)2009-10 b) 2018-19 c) 2019-20 d)2020-21**

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
4	1	2

In relation to 2009/10 figures, we can confirm that we do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. In accordance with the Council's Retention and Disposal Schedule, we no longer hold the information requested.

**3. The number of school pupils on a waiting list to see an education psychologist in a)2009-10 b) 2018-19 c) 2019-20 d)2020-21**

We confirm that Coventry City Council does not have a central waiting list.

**4. The cost of an education psychologist per hour to a school in a)2009-10 b) 2018-19 c) 2019-20 d)2020-21**

The Council confirms that it holds the information in relation to the cost of an education psychologist to a school but that it is exempt from disclosure under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that:

“Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it)”

In this case, disclosure of the information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Educational Psychology Service for the amounts they charge for this service. As a result, we are satisfied that the exemption applies.

This exemption is subject to the public interest test as detailed below:

**Public interest test**

There is an inherent public interest in ensuring that there is openness and transparency in the spending of public money. Transparency is likely to increase confidence in procurement procedures and purchasing decisions made by the Council. It will also enable the public to understand whether the Council is getting value for money from its purchasing decisions.

Having said this, we believe that disclosure of the charge for this service could prejudice the Council’s ability to make sound purchasing decisions as providers would not be operating from a level playing field. For example, disclosure of the costs to a competitor could lead to the competitor copying elements of their business model to win work without actually having the internal mechanisms (capacity, staffing skills, etc.) to deliver the product or service at the level and price outlined, when future bids with the Council or other organisations are tendered.

After considering the arguments for and against disclosure, the Council have decided to withhold the information relating to the costs.

**5. The number of state schools (including academies) in the local authority that use a council-employed education psychologist in a)2009-10 b) 2018-19 c) 2019-20 d)2020-21**

<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
94	92	97

In relation to 2009/10 figures, we can confirm that we do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. In accordance with the Council’s Retention and Disposal

Schedule, we no longer hold the information requested.

## **6. The reason for any capacity issues relating to education psychologists**

Capacity issues can be attributed to a national shortage of Educational Psychologists.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR 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**