



**Information Governance Team**

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Dear Sir/Madam

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

**Request ID: FOI591479215**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Educational psychologists.

You have requested the following information:

**1. The number of educational psychologists (EPs) employed by the council as of 1 January 2024, 1 Jan 2023, 1 Jan 2022, 1 Jan 2021 and 1 Jan 2020. Please provide the information for each year separately.**

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
11	12	14	14	13

**2. How many vacant EP posts did the council have as of 1 January 2024, and as of the same date for the years 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020. Please provide the information for each year separately.**

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
2	2	2	2	7

**3. How many posts were filled by locum, agency or temporary EPs as of 1 Jan 2024, and as of the same date for 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020. Please provide the information for each year separately.**

- a) Temporary – None
- b) Locum - None
- c) Agency - None

#### **4. What is the average salary of employed EPs.**

We are unable to answer this in the format requested however you may submit a reformulated request. To assist, we would require the period you are referring to for the average calculation. Your request states employed EPs, is this for any EPs that are currently on the payroll or employed in each of the relevant year? Would this be average FTE salary and will this just include basic salary or any additional contractual payments.

#### **5. What is the average daily cost of employed EPs.**

We are unable to answer this in the format requested however you may submit a reformulated request. To assist, please clarify if:

*Would the average daily cost be based on 365 contractual days ?*

*Would this be calculated base on the outcome of the above?*

*Would it be including on costs ?*

#### **6. The average daily cost of the following categories of EPs:**

- a) Temporary - Not applicable
- b) Locum - See below
- c) Agency - See below

#### **7. The highest daily cost of the following categories of EPs:**

- a) Temporary None – Not applicable
- b) Locum See below
- c) Agency See below

In regards to the average daily and highest costs for locum and agency EPs, 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. What was the total spend on locum/agency/temporary EPs for the financial years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23.**

	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>
Locum	£159,213	£126,200	£75,525
Agency	£0	£0	£0
Temporary	N/A	N/A	N/A

**9. What is the current and projected spend on locum/agency/temporary EPs for the current financial year.**

	<b>Current</b>	<b>Projected</b>
Locum	£93,435	£125,000
Agency	£0	£0
Temporary	N/A	N/A

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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**