

NCC-038664-19 EHCP assessments and SEND finances

Dear Requester,

I have managed to locate a recent request covering the same detail as yours. This can also be found on the link below on our disclosure log

I hope this covers everything. Please let me know if you require any further assistance. I apologise again for the delay.

I am writing to you under the freedom of information act 2000 to request the following information from you:

How many requests for EHCP assessments have been made in 23/07/2018-23/07/2019? 587 requests

How many plans were created in this period New plans = 326 How many assessments were refused at initial request? 188. This cohort relates to the panel date taking place during 23/7/18 – 23/7/19.

How many plans were released after the statutory 20 week deadline? Total = 66 EHC plans issued more than 20 weeks from contact date. NB 47 of these plans were issued following mediation or tribunal How much was spent on EHCP mediation during 23/07/2018-23/07/2019? £70494.39

How many EHCP mediation sessions were completed? 66 meetings took place

How many applications for appeal to first tier tribunal regarding change to content or name of provision in an EHCP were lodged during 23/07/2018-23/07/2019? 33 - NB This relates to both new plans and existing plans (eg following an annual review)

How many first tier tribunals went ahead? 9 - NB This relates to No to Assess, No to Plan, Content and Placement appeals. This cohort relates to the hearing date taking place during 23/7/2018 – 23/7/2019.

How many were in favour of the LA? 2

What was the cost to the LA of processing the paperwork involved with, and attending tribunals during 23/07/2018-23/07/2019? Calculated time of officers in court and the staff costs for preparing for court. This equates to approx.£173,000 estimated only

We trust this now resolves your enquiry, however should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me directly on the details below.

Nottinghamshire County Council regularly publishes previous FOIR,s and answers on its website, under Disclosure logs. (see link)

<http://site.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/>

You can use the search facility using keywords.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information Team, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or email complaints@nottscc.gov.uk

Kind Regards

Dear Sir/Madam

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

ECHPs

1. The number of initial requests that were made for assessment for an EHC plan during the 2018 calendar year. The council may refer me to the government's SEN 2 data if it is satisfied with the accuracy of the published figure.

2. Of the number of initial requests for assessment for an EHC plan during the 2018 calendar year (i.e. the question 1 figure), how many requests for assessment were refused? This question excludes requests made during the 2017 calendar year that were refused during the 2018 calendar year, but includes requests made during the 2018 calendar year that have been refused during the 2019 calendar year. I leave it to the council's discretion as to whether the SEN 2 figures satisfy these parameters.

3. Of the number of initial requests that were made for assessment for an EHC plan during the 2018 calendar year (i.e. the question 1 figure), how many have resulted in EHC plans being made (including plans made during the 2019 calendar year)? Please note the SEN 2 figures do not provide this data - SEN 2 shows the number of ECH plans that were made during the 2018 calendar year, not 2019, and regardless of the year in which the request for an assessment was made.

4. Of the number of initial requests that were made for assessment for an EHC plan during the 2018 calendar year (i.e. the question 1 figure), how many requests have yet to be decided upon (or are yet to have an ECH plan made, where the need for a plan has been agreed)? Please note the SEN 2 figures do not provide this data - the SEN 2 figures measure the outcomes of those assessments that took place during the 2018 calendar year

If responding to question 4 would take this request over the section 12 cost limit, please exclude question 4 and process the remainder of this request. If responding to questions 1-3 would still take this request over the section 12 cost limit, please exclude questions 1-4 in their entirety and process the remainder of this request.

Finances

Please state:

5. The monetary value of the council's High Needs Block allocation from the government each year in 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Question 5 excludes any transfer of funds by the council from other parts of the DSG into the High Needs Block (or vice versa).

The forecast 2019/20 figures for the following questions 6-8 should be those forecast at the start of the financial year (e.g. as part of annual budget-setting), not forecasts produced by in-year revenue monitoring.

6. The monetary value of the council's actual High Needs Block expenditure each financial year for 2018/19 and forecast for 2019/20.

7. The monetary value of the council's overspend or underspend (please specify) on its High Needs Block in 2018/19 and forecast for 2019/20.

8. The monetary value of transfers (a) to the council's High Needs expenditure from other parts of the council's DSG allocation, and (b) from the council's High Needs Block allocation to other parts of the council's DSG expenditure, in 2018/19 and forecast for 2019/20.

9. Any proposals the council has adopted or is considering adopting to reduce (or limit increases in) its High Needs expenditure in 2019/20, including (but not limited to) mitigating action to tackle forecast High Needs Block overspends, or changes to eligibility for or provision or staffing of special needs education, or restrictions to eligibility for or provision of special needs education transport services.

Bandings

10. Does the council use a banding system to allocate resources for special needs 'top up' funding?

If the answer to question 10 is 'no', please ignore questions 11-14.

11. Has the council changed the value or criteria of its banding system since April 2017? If so, please provide a copy of the impact assessment for the change.

If the answer to question 11 is 'no', please ignore questions 12-14.

12. What were the funding values and criteria for each band under the system prior to the change referred to in question 11? How many children were in each band immediately prior to the change?

13. What were the funding values and criteria for each band under the new system following the change referred to in question 11? How many children were in each band immediately after the change? The council may refer to its impact assessment for this latter aspect.

If data protection reasons mean specific figures cannot be given for the number of children in each band, please state (if known) how many children's top-up funding rose and how many children's top-up funding fell under the change.

14. How many children are currently in each band under the existing banding system?

I would like the information sent by email. Please use the attached spreadsheet to provide the information for questions 1-8.