

Reference: FOI-5377

## Response:

 How much money did the council spend on SEND tribunals - please provide figures for the following financial years 2021/22, 2022/3 and 2023/4

i.e In the financial year 2022/3 - the council spent £100,000 on SEND tribunals

RE spending, I am looking for total costs associated with processing and defending SEND appeals and tribunal hearings which includes legal costs like instructing external solicitors, commissioning expert witnesses etc.

By SEND tribunals I am referring to the Special Educational Needs and Disability First Tier Tribunal. This is an independent national tribunal which decides appeals against local authority (LA) decisions about the special educational needs (SEN) of children and young people.

Information not held as the Authority is unable to disaggregate the costs attached to SEND tribunal work from other work completed by the SEND support service, legal teams and other employees.

External costs relating to SEND tribunals were:

2021/22: £1,622.00 2022/23: £1,937.00 2023/24: £1,398.51

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For additional context for the above figures, can you please provide me with the following information:

2. In recent years, how many appeals were registered with the SEND Tribunal in relation to decisions made by the council? Please provide figures for the following financial years 2021/22, 2022/3 and 2023/4 i.e In the financial year 2022/3 - the council spent £100,000 on SEND tribunals. In 2022/3, a total of 50 appeals were lodged by parents, carers and young people challenging the SEND support provided by the council.

This information is held by calendar year.

2021: 19 2022: 39

2023: 95

2024: 83

3. Of the appeals that eventually went to a formal tribunal hearing, how many ruled in favour of the council? Please provide figures for the following financial years 2021/22, 2022/3 and 2023/4 i.e In the financial year 2022/3 - the council spent £100,000 on SEND tribunals. In 2022/3, 40 appeals went to a formal tribunal hearing. 25 of these ruled in favour of the council.

This information is held by calendar year

2021:1

2022:1

2023:3

2024:1

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Date: 14/01/2025 Page 2 of 3



Reference: FOI-5377

4. Of the appeals that eventually went to a formal tribunal hearing, how many ruled in favour of parents / families/ young people? Please provide figures for the following financial years 2021/22, 2022/3 and 2023/4

i.e In the financial year 2022/3 - the council spent £100,000 to SEND tribunals. In 2022/3, 40 appeals went to a formal tribunal hearing. 15 of these tribunals ruled in favour of parents

This information is held by calendar year

2021: 2 2022: 5

2023: 10

2024: 12 and 2 allowed in part.

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Date: 14/01/2025 Page 3 of 3