



Reference: FOI4378

**Request:**

Please complete the spreadsheet attached the Freedom of Information Act 2000, within the 20 working day legal limit.

To summarise, the questions are:

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

**We no longer hold this information for 2009-10 as our system to hold establishment data has been updated. In 2018-19 there were 10 educational psychologists directly employed by the Council In 2019-20 there were 13 educational psychologists directly employed by the Council In 2020-21 there were 13 educational psychologists directly employed by the Council**

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

**We no longer hold this information for 2009-10 as our system to hold establishment data has been updated.**

**In 2018-19 there were 2 vacancies for educational psychologists.**

**From 2019-20 onwards, we have been developing a new data reporting/analytics tool called Qlik and vacancy information is still being retrieved therefore educational psychologist vacancies 2019-20 cannot be retrieved.**

**There 2 full time vacancies currently; however due to challenges with recruitment we actually appointed a Year 2 trainee EP to one of these vacancies in March 2021, but she cannot commence her employment until September 2022. This early recruitment of trainees and the subsequent delay to capacity enhancement, is a challenge all regional EP Services are faced with**

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

**North Tyneside Educational Psychology Service does not have a waiting list as we provide a SLA to our schools; schools decided the time they require for their cohort and then prioritise pupils to be seen by their Educational Psychologist**

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

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**2009-10 cannot be calculated as the SLA was not established 2018-19 - £430 (6hrs) : £71.60 per hour 2019-20 - £430 (6hrs): £71.60 per hour 2020-21 - £460 (6hrs) : £76.60 per hour**

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

**For (a), (b), (c) and (d) the answer is 79. All school and academies continue to buy into the EP Service SLA**

6. the reason for any capacity issues relating to education psychologists

**There has been an increase in the number of statutory assessment requests which has reduced capacity to deliver SLA, which has in turn reduced income generation. The LA has not increased the Service budget adequately to cover the full cost of all statutory SEND work. Furthermore, EPs can earn more working privately via agencies as locums and so this is making it difficult to recruit to LA EP posts, especially when the work is at risk of becoming marginalised to statutory assessments [less about early intervention, training and systemic work]. There are not enough EPs being trained to meet current demand. LA services are currently being forced to recruit doctoral trainees in their second year of study in order to fill vacancies. We currently have a vacancy we have not managed to recruit a qualified EP to; we will need to advertise this again in the Spring 2022 (to our current Year 2 trainees) in order to guarantee Service capacity for academic year 2023-24. We have already been forced to recruit in this manner; we appointed a Year 2 trainee to a full-time post in March 2021 who will not commence employment until September 2022. It is commonplace for all trainee EPs to have jobs by April of their second year of study**