

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

I am trying to establish a national figure for Traveller education specialists and support staff in England and Wales that are employed either employed centrally by the Local Education Authorities, or employed by outside agencies contracted to Local Authorities. To this end I have submitted this request to all local authorities in England and Wales that have responsibility for education provision within their area.

In order to assist you with this request, I am outlining my query in a general manner and then breaking this down into two specific questions.

I am looking for a snapshot figure for the number of roles/jobs filled or temporarily vacant whilst waiting to be re-filled, in dedicated Traveller education support within your authority and paid and appointed by your authority, or by an outside organisation contracted to the authority, at the end of the academic year 2011/12 and the projected staffing levels for the start of the new academic year 2012/13.

To this end, could you please answer the following two questions:

1) How many Local Authority staff was employed centrally – or by outside agencies contracted to the authority - to support the education of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children at the end of the academic year 2011/12?

Please indicate their roles (e.g. consultant, teacher, home school liaison etc) and their full-time equivalent commitment to this work (eg ft; 0.5fte; 0.25fte etc). If this support was part of a wider role please estimate the proportion of their time allocated to it as full-time equivalent (eg ft; 0.5fte; 0.25fte etc).

2) Could you please anticipate whether these staffing levels will have changed by the start of the new academic year 2012/13 and if that is the case - what the projected staffing levels and roles will be then?

I would be interested in any information held by your organisation regarding the request. I understand that I do not have to specify particular files or documents and that it is the authorities responsibility to provide the information I require. If you need further clarification, please contact me by email.

1FTE Gypsy, Roma, Traveller (GRT) Consultant Advisory Teacher is employed by Leicester City Council on a permanent basis in 2011/12 academic year with no projected change in the 2012/13 academic year.

Elective Home Education Adviser retained through a consultancy contract advises Traveller families that choose to educate their children at home. 0.60FTE proportion allocated to GRT pupils is: 0.03FTE.

In 2011, the Outdoor Education Development Officer supported GRT pupils engaging in 18 Outdoor Learning events held at the Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre. Because of the range of agencies and partners involved in these events, it is not possible to calculate accurately the total time involved.

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Information Governance Manager
Information and Support
Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)
New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG
e-mail: FOIA@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.