

Request:

Q1. I am requesting to see any information that you have on the closure and reduced funding of public libraries in North Tyneside from the last five years.

Q2. I would like to know how many public libraries have been closed, the level of opposition to this and the reasons that were cited for their closure.

Q3. I would also be interested to know if there any usage statistics from the last year.

Response:

****Q1.** From a starting budget of £6.546m, the level of base budget reductions for the period 2016/17 to 2020/21 across the Council's Libraries & Community Centres is (£0.605m) **

****Q2.** There have been no library closures in North Tyneside over the last five years. (Tynemouth Library is currently closed, but this is because the current library is being rebuilt with a new library in its place)**

****Q3.** For the last full year (1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020), visitors were 1,424,222 and there were 552,489 books issued.
So far for 2020/21 there have been 65,011 visits and 175,817 books issued but this does not provide an accurate picture of usage due to closures and limited services offered as a result of the pandemic.**