



Reference: FOI-141

Request:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information which may be found within your Education, Children's Services or Insurance/Finance Department.

I write to request information regarding the Authority's staff absence scheme for schools. Please kindly provide the following:

1. Does the Authority provide a staff absence scheme for schools?
2. If no, has the authority historically provided a scheme for schools and when did this cease?
3. If yes, is the scheme outsourced to another provider or delivered by the Authority?
4. If the scheme is outsourced to another provider, which provider is this and when does this agreement expire? Who is responsible for the management of the scheme within the Authority?
5. If the scheme is provided by the authority, can you please provide details of the scheme including:
 - a. Daily benefit amount reimbursed for each category of staff
 - b. Waiting period applied to each claim
 - c. Are there any exclusions to the scheme? If so, please provide details of this
 - d. Is the scheme open to Academies?
 - e. How is the price of the scheme determined for each school?
 - f. Who is responsible for the management of the scheme within the Authority?
 - g. Number of schools participating in the scheme
 - h. 2021 total contributions made to the scheme and 2021 total claims payments made from the scheme

Response:

1. The Local Authority does not provide a general staff absence scheme for schools. It does however support Schools Forum to have in place an arrangement for special leave which is limited to trade union facility time and leave linked to maternity/adoption/paternity/shared parental leave, etc.
2. The Local Authority does not provide a general staff absence scheme for schools; however, Schools Forum in North Tyneside do have in place such a scheme which has very limited application – as noted above.
3. As noted in Q1, the scheme is not a Local Authority scheme, it belongs to Schools Forum and is overseen by the Schools HR Team (who are a private company) on behalf of Schools Forum with very limited application – please see other responses for further information.

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4. The process in place is on behalf of the North Tyneside Schools Forum and they determine annually if they wish to have this arrangement in place or not as part of their annual business; it will next be reviewed for April 2023.
5. As noted above the Scheme is not provided by the Authority, it belongs to the North Tyneside Schools Forum.

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