



Reference: FOI3787

**Request:**

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. Please can you tell me how much the council has spent on instructing solicitors/barristers for Special Educational Needs first tier tribunals, upper tribunals and judicial reviews in each year since 2013/14.

North Tyneside Council has not instructed any external solicitors/barristers as requested above. Therefore, the spend is zero.

Please break down the total by cost per case and please provide a summary of the reason for each case e.g. parent seeking council funds to cover the cost of their child's education.

N/A see above.

If possible, please provide the outcome of each case i.e. the panel/judge upheld the council's decision, the panel/judge overturned the council's decision and for each hearing please include whether the parent had legal representation or if they were a litigant in person.

To provide this information would require a manual check of each set of 82 records at 15 minutes per record.

Therefore, this part of the request is refused under s12 (1) Freedom of Information Act 2000, since the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

In assessing the cost of complying, the costs attributable to officer time involved in complying have been considered. Such costs are limited to £450.00 under the Regulations, which equates to eighteen hours of officer time.

Please also include how many cases were settled before they went to hearing, or where one party cancelled the hearing please state whether this was the local authority or the parent.

See above.