



Reference: FOI3932

Request:

We are making Freedom of Information requests to all local authorities across the UK to identify specialist provisions for children and young people with language disorder, as the information collected currently does not cover this condition. Your completion of the short questionnaire (attached) will allow us to improve the information available to families and practitioners.

Information about Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)

*** DLD is the term agreed by international consensus (Bishop & CATALISE Consortium 2017) to describe people who have ongoing difficulties with understanding and using language (including vocabulary, grammar and social use of language).**

*** DLD is a speech; language and communication need (SLCN). It is not autism, as it primarily impacts on vocabulary and sentences rather than social interaction.**

*** DLD affects 7.6% of the population (Norbury, 2016) and so is 7 times more common than autism.**

*** DLD impacts directly on education significantly as most classroom learning is mediated by language.**

*** There has been a change in terminology and criteria, and many children and young people are under-identified.**

*** To learn more about DLD go to naplic.org.uk/dld.**

Most children and young people with DLD are supported in mainstream schools, often by Speech and Language Therapists and/or specialist teachers. A significant number of children and young people require higher levels of support, but still within mainstream school settings. These 'units' have a myriad of names including: 'language resource provision, speech and language centre, language class and specialist support centre.' In the questionnaire we have referred to them as 'specialist language provisions'.

Please complete the attached Excel spreadsheet title 'DLD FOI request' for your local authority. Guidance on completing the spreadsheet is also attached in the Word document title 'DLD FOI guidance.'

This request relates primarily to educational provision and the LA is the key organisation.

Response attached

****Please note that the Authority does not use the designation "DLD" in our records, nor do we do hold any detail on any official medical diagnosis for any of the conditions outlined in the request. Therefore, we have provided the numbers for young people recorded as having a primary need for ASD and/or Speech and Language, however this does not confirm a medical diagnosis. It should also be noted that the providers listed are not dedicated Speech and Language providers and cater for a wide range of needs.****