

Freedom of Information – Response – 27017

To the Freedom of Information Officer,

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the council's provision of home-to-school transport (HTST) for pupils up to the age of 16 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Please provide the following information for the last four complete academic years (2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 & 2024/25) and, where available, data for the current year (2025/26). If it is more convenient and less costly for you when searching your records, please provide the data for the financial years listed above, rather than academic years.

1. Cost

a) What is the total cost to the council of SEND home-to-school transport (HTST)?

The following are for financial years and for all SEND passengers as Suffolk County Council (SCC) does not separate cost data between pre-16 and post-16 pupils.

Financial Year	SEND Home-to-School Transport Cost
2021 – 2022	£17,148,000
2022 – 2023	£23,524,000
2023 – 2024	£31,888,000
2024 – 2025	£34,698,097
2025 – 2026*	£39,145,351

*(Forecast)

b) What is the total cost to the council of single-occupancy vehicles (i.e. vehicles which are transporting only one pupil) used for HTST?

SCC does not currently report on costs for single-occupancy vehicles so do not hold this data.

2. Pupil Numbers

a) In total, how many pupils with SEND receive HTST?

All pupil numbers provided are for the relevant school year. These figures are based on a snapshot of passengers during the year as there are variations across the school terms.

NB Prior to 2025, data was not split between pre-16 and post-16 pupils. Total SEND pupil numbers provided for 2020-2024

Financial Year	Total SEND HTST Passengers
2021 – 2022 ¹	2,207
2022 – 2023 ¹	2,374
2023 – 2024 ¹	2,698
2024 – 2025 ¹	2,903

2025 – 2026 ²	2,979
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¹ Pre- & post-16

² Pre-16 only

b) Of those, how many travel in single-occupancy vehicles?

Financial Year	Total SEND HTST Single Occupancy Vehicles
2021 – 2022	No figures available
2022 – 2023	“
2023 – 2024	“
2024 – 2025 ¹	399
2025 – 2026 ²	429

¹ Pre- & post-16

² Pre-16 only

3. Distance and Journey Times

a) How many pupils with HTST arrangements have a journey from home to school (and/or vice versa) that exceeds 75 minutes?

b) How many pupils with HTST arrangements in single-occupancy vehicles have a journey from home to school (and/or vice versa) that exceeds 75 minutes?

c) What is the longest distance (in miles) currently being travelled from home to school (and/or vice versa) by a pupil with HTST arrangements in single-occupancy vehicles?

d) How many times a week is this journey (answer 3c) made? If fewer than once a week, please specify how many times a month.

e) What was the cost of an individual instance of this journey (answer 3c)?

SCC does not currently report on journey times as requested so do not hold this data.