

Freedom of Information – Response – 27289

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information.

Academic years: 2020/21 to 2024/25

Please note that owing to a change in reporting systems Suffolk County Council (SCC) do not have data for 5 years.

Q1. For each of the last 5 academic years, please provide the number of:

(a) EHC needs assessment requests received

(b) EHC plans issued following assessment

(c) EHC plans issued within the 20-week statutory timescale (including any permissible extensions)

(d) EHC needs assessment requests refused If held in recorded form, please also provide the longest number of weeks taken to issue an EHCP in each year.

		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	longest number of weeks
As at 13/05/2026	2025/26	1,973	1,804	608	22	25 wks and 6 days
	2024/25	2,657	2,958	446	423	84 weeks and 4 days
	2023/24	2,642	1,599	186	280	97 weeks and 5 days
April to Aug	2022/23	858	584	10	68	110 wks and 6days
	2021/22	Please note that owing to a change in reporting systems Suffolk County Council do not have data for 5 years.				
	2020/21					

Q2. For each of the last 5 academic years, please provide:

(a) Number of SENDIST tribunal appeals registered against the authority

Please note this is reported in calendar years as is utilised by SENDIST. Pre 2023 data is not held in a reportable format.

2023 199 appeals lodged

2024 286 appeals lodged

2025 474 appeals lodged

(b) Number proceeding to a full hearing

(c) Number resolved before hearing

(b) and (c) Suffolk County Council do not record the number that proceeded to full hearing compared to those resolved prior to hearing.

(d) Number decided in favour of the parent/carer

The wording for (d) is not clear, as resolutions where consent has been reached do not stipulate "in favour of". The agreed decision may not be the same as the original request

by either party, but both parties are happy with the agreed outcome.

Q3. As of the most recent available date, please provide:

(a) Number of full-time equivalent Educational Psychologists employed by the authority	28
(b) Number of vacant Educational Psychologist posts	8.6

Q4. If recorded, what is the current average waiting time (in weeks) for an Educational Psychologist assessment? Please specify how the waiting time is measured.

Between January to April 2026, the average time between referral received into EP service and completion of EP advice = 6.5 weeks (45.94 days)

Q5. As of the most recent available date, how many children with an EHCP are awaiting a specialist school placement arranged by the authority? Of these, how many have been waiting more than 6 months?

We can confirm that Suffolk County Council (SCC) holds this information; however, it is exempt from disclosure under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

This is because this information is not held in a reportable format and to complete the request we would need to manually review, retrieve and extract the information requested

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for local government is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half working days in determining whether the Council holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

Suffolk County Council estimate that it will exceed the time allowed for an FOI to locate, retrieve and extract the information in reference to your request.

Advice and Assistance

Whilst we cannot provide you with what you have requested, if you are happy to receive the number of children with an ECHP who are awaiting a specialist school place then we can provide you with this information.

Q6. As of the most recent available date:

(a) Number of overdue EHCP annual reviews

(b) Longest overdue annual review (in months)

Please note that owing to a change in reporting systems Suffolk County Council do not have data for 5 years.

		(a)	(b)
As at 13/05/2026	2025/26	2,129	112 months

	2024/25	2,384	123 months
	2023/24	2,342	131 months
April to Aug	2022/23	3,269	119 months
	2021/22		

Q7. For each of the last 5 academic years, how many children with an EHCP were placed in alternative provision? If recorded, please provide the number where this placement was due to a lack of suitable school place.

Please note that the data below relates to registered Alternative Provision

Due to how this information was previously recorded, data is not available for some of this time period.

Academic Year	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Alternative provision	(EHCP data not available)	(EHCP data not available)	(EHCP data not available)	Total EHCP 157	Total - EHCP 122 This data is year to date

Q8. For each of the last 5 academic years, what was the total spend on SEND home-to-school transport (including any contracted provision)?

Please note that the records SCC hold for total SEND transport costs are by financial year instead of school year and these are the figures shown below.

Financial Year	SEND Outturn
2021-22	£17,148,000.00
2022-23	£23,524,000.00
2023-24	£31,888,000.00
2024-25	£34,698,097.13
2025-26	£38,989,261.21

Q9. For each of the last 5 academic years, please provide:

(a) High Needs Block DSG allocation

(b) Actual High Needs Block spend

(c) Resulting surplus or deficit

Please see table below

	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26 (Q3)
DSG HNB Allocation (Before Recoupment)	85.905	96.663	108.299	114.006	124.144
DSG HNB Spend (Excluding any other Block Transfers)	93.261	108.79	135.988	162.267	198.653
DSG HNB Deficit/(Surplus)	7.356	12.127	27.689	48.261	74.509

Q10. For each of the last 5 academic years, how many fixed-term exclusions were issued to pupils with an EHCP?

Please note that the information is not published by DFE until July 2026 for the whole academic year 2024/2025

[Release home - Suspensions and permanent exclusions in England - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)

		No. suspensions
only Autumn and Spring (SFR)	2024/25	1407
	2023/24	1497
	2022/23	1057
	2021/22	763
	2020/21	679

Q11. For each of the last 5 academic years, please provide:

(a) Number of SEND-related complaints received

(b) Number escalated to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman

(c) Number upheld or partially upheld by the Ombudsman

We can confirm that Suffolk County Council holds this information. However, the information is readily accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain.

Section 21 of the FOIA states that a public authority does not need to provide information under section 1 of the Act if that information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means.

The information requested can be found in the Annual Report of Compliments, Comments and Complaints taken to Audit Committee annually in September. Further information can also be found in the Minutes from each meeting. The Report and the minutes can be found via the following link:

[Committee Documents - Committee Minutes](#)