Freedom of Information Request – Response – 28064

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request information regarding your local authority's annual expenditure on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision over the last ten financial years.
Please note, that for most of the information requested, 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. Please use the links provided to access the requested information.

*Specifically, please provide the annual expenditure for each financial year from **2016/17 to 2025/26 inclusive** (or up to the most recent completed financial year), broken down by:*

*1. **Maintained Schools:** Total expenditure on SEND provision within local authority-maintained mainstream and maintained special schools. Please include for years, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026.*

Suffolk County Council publishes expenditure data for all payments over £250, available here: https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/open-data-suffolk

If you wish to identify expenditure related to all high needs funding for specific providers, you may download the datasets for the months/years of interest and filter using the following fields:

Directorate: CYP

Service Area: S4_BA-Inclusion

Sub-Service Area: S5_BAG-SEND High Needs

Sub-description: 39220 – Payments to Other Schools

These published datasets contain all information the Council holds on relevant payments made to providers.

*2. **Non-Maintained & Independent Schools:** Total expenditure on SEND provision in non-maintained special schools (NMSS) and independent/private special school placements. Please include for years, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026.*

Due to the move in finance system in 2019, we cannot report a figure for financial year before 2019.

FY	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£13,343,139	13,528,036	14,605,410	18,827,354	26,739,817	36,564,660	43,972,837

If possible within the statutory cost limits, please also provide:
3. The total number of children with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans funded by the council placed in (a) maintained schools and (b) non-maintained/independent schools for each corresponding financial year.

The total number of children with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans in maintained schools can be found on the DfE Website for Collection Statistics: special educational needs (SEN)

The link is here Statistics: special educational needs (SEN) - GOV.UK

Pupil numbers for Independent schools recorded by Academic Year;

Due to the move in the reporting system in 2019, we cannot report a figure for academic year before 2019.

AY	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Independent schools	265	305	454	406	537	662	894