

**Freedom of Information Act Request**

Reference: ECC17633125 11 24
Response: 04 December 2024

I can confirm that Essex County Council does hold this information, and where we are able to release this, our response is listed below.

**Question 1 -** **What was the budget and actual spend 23/24 fiscal year, if possible, how much of this was for SEND pupils?**

I can confirm that Essex County Council does hold this information, but it is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Act because the information is available elsewhere.

The information you have requested is available at [Decisions (essex.gov.uk)](https://cmis.essex.gov.uk/essexcmis5/Decisions.aspx), All Education Transport Cabinet papers are usually published each year in January, which include budget information.

You can find information regarding SEND transport spend at [Spending and Council Tax: Finance and spending breakdowns | Essex County Council](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.essex.gov.uk%2Frunning-council%2Fspending-and-council-tax%2Ffinance-and-spending-breakdowns&data=05%7C02%7CAndrew.Beaver%40essex.gov.uk%7C2edd6d91975c4e5cd1b508dcbd386ab8%7Ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7C0%7C0%7C638593297206594258%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uKqwH%2F10oDUVB00%2B%2BFI1u5VDjMhndxMkJaPHPPj4Y6g%3D&reserved=0), under the ‘Council Contracts’ heading towards the bottom of the webpage. This includes contracts awarded under Passenger Transport, split out by category and provider. The letters used in the Contract ID, will give an indication on the category, if this is not clearly stated in the description, for example S= SEND. Contracts from 2015 – 2024 can be viewed at the relevant links.

This acts as a refusal notice in respect of this element of your request.

**Question 2 - What is the budget for 24/25 fiscal year, if possible, how much of this is for SEND pupils?**

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This acts as a refusal notice in respect of this element of your request.

**Question 3 - How many private hire routes are operating and for how many pupils, if possible private hire?**

ECC currently have 109 Education contracts that are procured out to external operators, 59 of these are SEND contracts. Most of these contracts run on One School one Operator and cluster contracts models, with minimal contracts consisting of individual routes, which are by exception.

Across all education contracts, including SEND and Mainstream, external operators provide transport for 8220 passengers.

**Question 4 -** **On average how long does it take to get operator’s licence if all of the information provided is correct?**

Essex County Council is not responsible for this activity. This is carried out by Borough, City, District Councils and Unitary Authorities, you would need to contact the relevant local council for further information regarding this.

[Contact your local council | Essex County Council](https://www.essex.gov.uk/contact-your-local-council)

**Question 5 -** **On average how long does it take to get onto the dynamic purchasing system (DPS) used for procurement & bids assuming that all of the information provided is correct?**

The timescale for this would depend on factors including the planned closure date of the latest DPS round and if any clarifications or additional documents are required. Once a round has closed, each onboarding submission must be evaluated and moderated. ECC endeavour to provide a response within 10 working days.

**Question 6 -** **How are the home to school run jobs published on the DPS?**

Education contracts are published on [Procontract](https://procontract.due-north.com/Register) through the latest DPS reference: [PL0066 - ECC Passenger Transport DPS 2023](https://procontract.due-north.com/Advert?advertId=ab26ab4f-1d91-ee11-8125-005056b64545). Once accepted onto the DPS, contractors would be able to view live tenders for the categories they have successfully onboarded for.

**Question 7 -** **Are they per school or individual routes?**

Most of ECC’s Education passenger transport contracts run on One School one Operator and cluster contracts models, with minimal contracts consisting of individual routes, which are by exception.

**Question 8 -** **Are they mainly posted throughout the year or at certain times of the year?**

ECC typically run a tender round each year around February / March. Additional ad hoc tenders may be released via the DPS throughout the year, but this is based on demand and only by exception where routes cannot be added to existing contracts.

**Your Right to Know**

Democracy and Transparency

Essex County Council

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