

**FOI 000746 Independent SEN provision and private alternative provision
Responses shown in bold**

Private SEND provision:

1. How much did the local authority spend on private (independent, non-state-run) special educational provision for pupils in the following years: 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19?

See spreadsheet attached. Please note the figure for 2018-19 is an estimate as figures for 2018-19 are still waiting to be finalised.

2. How many pupils with special educational needs did the local authority send to private SEND provision in the following years: 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19?

This information is available in the public domain and can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-special-educational-needs-sen>

3. If any new private SEND provision has opened in the local authority in the last three years, please state a) the names of all new private SEND providers that opened b) the year they opened (between 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19)

We do not hold this information but the requestor could source this information directly from Ofsted or the Department of Education.

4. What are the reasons for any increase or decrease in the amount being spent on private SEND provision for pupils in the past three years?

The Local Authority has a duty to provide access to suitable education to meet the assessed needs of children with SEND and we must do this in a cost effective way. Any change in the amount of funding to support children in private (Independent Sector) SEND provision will reflect changes in the number of children where the Local Authority have not been able to meet need through our own mainstream or specialist provision.

Private Alternative Provision:

1. How much did the local authority spend on private (independent, non-state-run) alternative provision for excluded and other vulnerable pupils in the following years: 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19?

We do not hold this information as we do not allocate spend to independent or non-state-run alternative provisions.

2. How many pupils did the local authority send to private AP provision in the following years: 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19?

We do not hold this information in relation to vulnerable and excluded pupils, however if information referring to young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) is required this can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-special-educational-needs-sen>

3. If any new private AP provision has opened in the local authority in the last three years, please state a) the names of all new private AP providers that opened b) the year they opened (between 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19)

We do not hold this information. By their nature, they are private / independent providers as a result the Department of Education do not produce a list on their 'Get Information About Schools' website as they do for state schools. However, the requestor may be able to source this information from Ofsted directly.

4. What are the reasons for any increase or decrease in the amount being spent on private AP provision for pupils in the past three years?

The Local Authority has a duty to provide access to suitable education to meet the assessed needs of children with SEND and we must do this in a cost effective way. Any change in the amount of funding to support children in private (Independent Sector) SEND provision will reflect changes in the number of children where the Local Authority have not been able to meet need through our own mainstream or specialist provision.