

Question to Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee – 4 October 2022

1. Please could you confirm the total number of SEN children and young adults who received home to school transport in the academic year 2021/22 and the total number currently receiving home to school transport for the 2022/2023 academic year?
2. Please could you confirm the number of SEN children and young adults who received home to school transport in the academic year 2021/22 who are no longer being provided home to school transport in the academic year 22/23 due to the revised Home to School Transport Policy?
3. Please could you confirm the total number of SEN home to school transport appeals for both last year and this year. For the academic year 22/23 how many of these appeals have been decided and what was the outcome?
4. Where home to school transport for SEN children and young adults has been agreed for this academic year how many are still waiting for that provision to be provided?
5. Please could you confirm the total number of home to school transport providers this academic year compared to the prior academic year and what are the key reasons for any difference in the number of providers?

Mark Sugden

Response**Question 1 Response:**

In the 2021/22 academic year there were 5143 SEN children and young adults pupils receiving transport. To date for the 2022/23 academic year the total is 3854.

Question 2 Response:

This information is not currently available. The academic year began on 5 September and therefore the impact of the new policy is still being analysed.

Question 3 Response:

There were 447 Stage 1 SEN home to school transport appeals in 2021/22 and 82 so far in 2022/23. Of these 11 have been agreed, 6 refused and 1 withdrawn. There is a forward plan for appeals panels in place to manage the appeals coming through at this time of year as efficiently as possible.

Question 4 Response:

There are 159 SEN children and young adults who are eligible for a transport solution but do not currently have one. Solutions for these children are being actively pursued.

Question 5 Response:

As of 27 September 2022, there are 135 approved companies, compared to 128 in September 2021. Despite the impact of the Covid pandemic and the rise in fuel prices we have worked hard to attract and retain transport providers. However, this financial year we have seen companies exercise more discretion about the work they are willing to undertake.

**Liz Bowes, Chairman – Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture
Select Committee**