

03 September 2012

Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 3 August 2012, in which you have requested information relating to applications for school places. Your request has been considered under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and for ease of reference I will respond to each question in turn.

The information relates to matters dealt with in the academic year 2011/2012. It relates to each of your community and voluntary controlled schools. With this in mind, please provide me with the following information:

Year 7

1. How many applications did you receive for a school place in Year 7 (2011/12)?

For the academic year 2011/12, one community secondary school was oversubscribed. The school received a total of 982 applications for 210 places. Of the 982 applications, 262 were first preferences for the school. There are no Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools within the borough.

2. How many admission appeals in relation to Year 7 were lodged (2011/12)?

For Community schools: 19 appeal applications were lodged for entry into Year 7.

3. How many admissions appeals in relation to Year 7 were heard (2011/12)?

For Community schools: 13 appeals were heard (the remaining six were withdrawn before hearing).

4. How many appeals were successful (2011/12)?

For Community schools: one appeal was successful

5. Who administered/services the admission appeal function in 2011/12)?

The independent appeals service is provided by the Democratic Services section, which forms part of the Chief Executive's office.

6. Is the above (point 5) function:

- a. **outsourced to a private fee paying organisation?;**

No

b. **managed internally by school based staff?;**

No

c. **undertaken solely by the local education authority to administer?; or**

For Community schools: yes

d. **some other arrangement? (please provide details)**

Not applicable

7. How much of your budget is allocated for admission appeals in the year academic year 2010/2011, 2011/2012 and 2012/2013?

The admission appeals are not specifically budgeted for and therefore this information cannot be provided. Although some in-year admission appeals are received throughout the school year, the demand for appeals services is primarily from May to July each year once applicants receive responses from the admission authority for entry into Years 1 & 7.

The additional administrative work generated during that period (May-July) is carried out by temporary officers and Council officers whose job profile includes school appeals work.

8. How much of your budget was spent on admission appeal do you spend/allocate for admission appeals

As indicated above, the admission appeals are not specifically budgeted for. Officer time spent on appeals is not recorded and other expenditure relating to appeals is spread across a number of service area cost codes.

If you are dissatisfied with the way the council has handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act you may ask for an internal review. This should be submitted to us within 40 working days of this response. You can do this by outlining the details of your complaint by:

Email: information@croydon.gov.uk

Writing: Complaint Resolution Team
London Borough of Croydon
Taberner House
Park Lane
Croydon, CR9 3JS

Any requests received after the 40 working day time limit will be considered only at the discretion of the council.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to

apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

Information Co-ordinator