



## Statistical First Release

### Admission appeals for maintained and academy primary and secondary schools in England: 2013 to 2014

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| Internet         | <a href="#">Admission appeals data series</a>  |

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**New data series starts** There has been a break in the collection and publication of the appeal data while improvements have been made. The figures now include academies and also only include appeals relating to entry into the start of the academic year. This has allowed us to report on the current academic year, making the publication more timely.

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**Secondary appeal rates** Overall 20,235 appeals were lodged in relation to entry into secondary school, and 15,885 proceeded to a hearing. There was a rate of 2.6% of admissions into secondary schools (at the start of the academic year) being heard by a panel.

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**Primary appeal rates** At primary level 30,315 appeals were lodged and 21,080 proceeded to a hearing. This was a rate of 2.5% being heard by an appeal panel. Of the total primary appeals heard 14,960 related to a place in an infant class. The heard rate for infant classes was 2.2%.

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**Academy figures** For the first time in this collection academies have provided information on the appeals they received and are therefore included in all total figures of admissions and appeals. Table 2 shows that the rate of appeals heard for academy schools was 2.3%, and the rate found in the parent's favour (upheld) was 26.9% of heard appeals.

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#### A National Statistics publication

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

## 1. Secondary results

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| Proportion of admissions subject to appeal | Once an appeal has been made, it can be withdrawn (for example because the child has been offered a place at the school via the waiting list) before reaching a hearing. At secondary level, the rate of appeals lodged was 3.3% of admissions, and 2.6% reached the stage of being heard by the appropriate authority (table 1).  |
| Number upheld                              | Of the secondary appeals heard, 26.7% were upheld, or found in the favour of the parent (submitting the appeal on behalf of the child).  |
| Appeal rate by school group                | The appeal numbers and rates are provided by school group, with academies included for the first time (table 2). At secondary level the school group with the lowest rate of appeals heard was foundation schools at 1.5%. The highest was community & voluntary controlled schools with 3.5%.   |
| LA variation                               | The overall percentages of appeals heard and upheld varied substantially between local authorities (table 3). The rate of appeals heard ranged from 13.6% (Slough) to 0% (Barnsley, Wakefield and Herefordshire) of admissions. These three LAs also had a very small number of appeals initially lodged, implying a high satisfaction level with the schools places offered via the national offer process. The very small areas of Isles of Scilly, City of London and the Isle of Wight are not included in these observations. |
| LA level appeals upheld                    | Again there is wide variation in the rate of appeals upheld at LA level. The highest was Hartlepool with 100% of heard appeals being upheld. The lowest, with 0% of heard appeals upheld, were Torbay (based on just 3 appeals lodged and heard), Redcar & Cleveland (7 appeals lodged and 6 heard) and St Helen's (12 appeals lodged and 10 heard).   |

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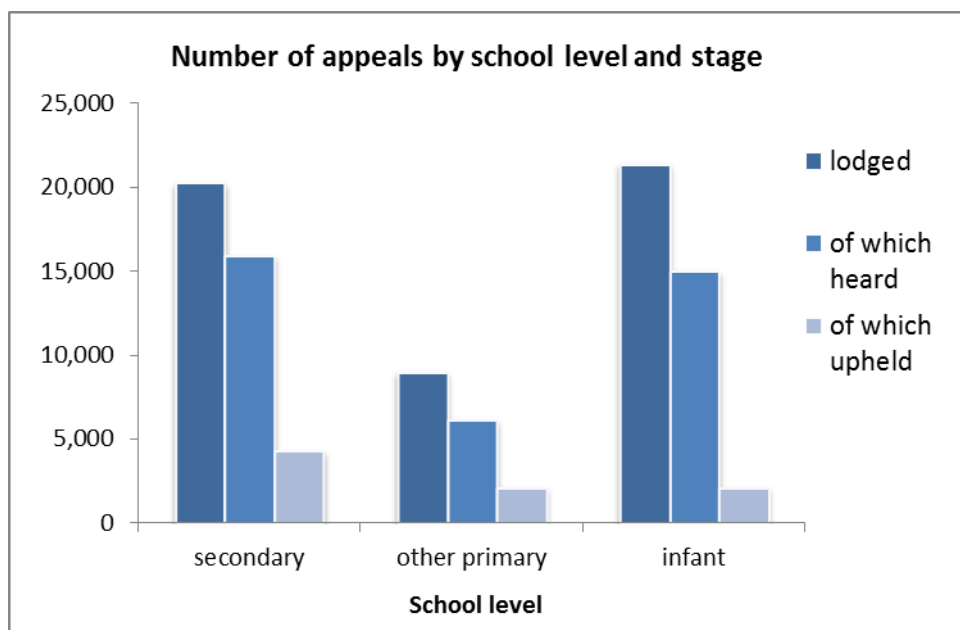
## 2. Primary results

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| Proportion of admissions subject to appeal | At primary level, the rate of appeals lodged was 3.6% of admissions, and 2.5% reached the stage of being heard by an appeals panel (table 1).   |
| Number upheld                              | Of the primary appeals heard, 19.6% were upheld, or found in the favour of the parent (submitting the appeal on behalf of the child).   |
| Appeal rate by school group                | At primary level the school group with the lowest rate of appeal was foundation schools with a heard rate of 0.9%. The highest was for voluntary aided schools with 3.0% (table 2).   |
| Infant class appeals                       | The primary level data is further split into infant and other primary classes. For the infant classes, the rate of appeals lodged was 3.2% of admissions into those years. 2.2% were then heard by the appeals panel.   |
| Infant class number upheld                 | Of the infant class appeals heard, 13.7% were upheld. For the other primary years the figure was 34.0%.   |
| LA variation                               | As was seen at secondary level the variation in LA appeal rates is considerable (table 3). The primary level rate of appeals heard ranged from 7.4% (Birmingham) down to 0.6% (Central Bedfordshire and Kingston-upon-Thames), again removing the very small LAs.   |
| LA level appeals upheld                    | The highest rate of appeals upheld at primary level was seen at Durham with 66.4% of heard appeals being found in the parents' favour. There were several LAs (Merton, Hounslow, Rutland, Redcar & Cleveland and North Tyneside) where 0% of heard appeals were upheld.   |
| LA level infant appeals upheld             | The infant appeals generally made up a large proportion of the overall primary appeals so usually saw similar appeal rates at LA level to those for all primary appeals. This is not however always the case – for example Wokingham had 39.3% of heard primary appeals upheld, but for the subset of infant appeals no appeals were upheld. This could be because of the legal class size limits for infant classes which reduce the possibilities for appeal for these years. |

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**Chart 1: Total number of appeals lodged and how many of these were heard and were upheld, by school level.**



### 3. List of tables

The following tables are available in excel format on the department's statistics website: [Admission appeals data series](#)

- 1 Total appeals by parents against non-admission of their children to primary and secondary local authority maintained schools and academies, entry into the start of the 2013/14 academic year, England.
- 2 Appeals by parents against non-admission of their children to primary and secondary local authority maintained schools and academies, by type of school, entry into the start of the 2013/14 academic year, England
- 3 Appeals by parents against non-admission of their children to primary and secondary local authority maintained schools and academies, entry into the start of the 2013/14 academic year, by local authority area.

## List of tables – further information

When reviewing the tables, please note the following:

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| We preserve confidentiality                      | The Code of Practice for Official Statistics requires we take reasonable steps to ensure that our published or disseminated statistics protect confidentiality.   |
| So we remove some small numbers and round others | Numbers of 1 or 2, and their percentages, have been suppressed. Where necessary additional figures for an LA have also been suppressed to prevent the removed figure from being calculated. All totals have been rounded to the nearest five. Therefore there may be discrepancies between the sum of individual figures and the totals as shown.   |
| Admissions figures include august admissions     | Previously admissions data was published both from entry on 1 September and also from 1 August entry for the academic year being reported on. For the majority of LAs the figures were the same, however increased flexibility (through the academy and free school programmes) mean schools can choose their own school terms, which could include starting in august. To allow for this and to simplify the tables only admissions totals including august admissions have been included. |
| New timeseries started                           | Table 1 gives England level admissions and appeals data by school level. The changes made to this collection mean the figures are not comparable with those published in previous years. Therefore this table has only a single year of data, which will be built on in future years to create a new timeseries.  |
| New school group added                           | Table 2 divides the data by the type of school to which the applicants are trying to gain admission. Previously academies were not required to provide appeal information, and were also removed from the admissions dataset. This year, however, they have been included in the appeals data collection and are therefore included in this table.  |

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## **4. Background: interpretation of the figures and data sources**

4.1 The total number of appeals lodged by parents against non-admission of their children can be misleading. Some appeals are resolved before they reach a panel hearing (for example a place at the school could become available via the school's waiting list). In addition parents can lodge appeals for more than one school but will only require a single school place.

4.2 Figures for the total number of admissions appeals lodged are given in this publication but the number of appeals actually heard by an appeals panel is considered to be a more reliable indicator. Therefore in tables 2 and 3 rates are calculated for appeals heard and those upheld only.

4.3 In order to improve timeliness, allowing us to report on the current academic year, only appeals lodged by 1 September and relating to entry into the start of the academic year (for any school year) were collected. Therefore appeals relating to an application for a child to move schools during the school year will not be included.

4.4 Appeals against non-admission to a school sixth form are included.

4.5 Appeals for entry into infant age classes are listed individually. These are a subset of the primary appeals figures. This subset relates to the national curriculum year of the class only, they are not necessarily infant class size appeals (relating to regulations limiting the maximum size of an infant class) although these will be included.

4.6 Appeals for foundation, voluntary aided and academy all-through schools cannot be divided into those relating to primary national curriculum years and those relating to secondary years. As some of these schools have recorded infant appeals, all all-through schools have been recorded as primary in both the appeals and the admissions datasets.

4.7 The appeals data is derived from two sources. The local authorities provided appeal data for their community and voluntary controlled schools via the Survey of Admissions Appeals, returned to the department in January/February 2014. The foundation, voluntary aided and academy schools provided appeal data via the spring 2014 school census (admissions appeals module).

4.8 The admissions dataset used to calculate the rates of appeals lodged and heard is calculated from the spring 2014 school census. It includes as an admission all pupils on roll on census day who were a new entrant into a mainstream maintained or academy school between 1 August 2013 and 3 October 2013 (autumn school census day).

4.9 Because the number of appeals heard can be very small at LA level, there can be significant variation in rates heard which only relate to a numerical difference of one or two appeals being upheld.

## 5. Background: the appeals process

Each LA coordinates admissions to all the state-funded schools in its area. It receives applications for all children resident in its area, and sends offers of a school place on National Offer Day.

Under the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#) parents have the right to submit an appeal, to an independent appeal panel, against a decision to refuse their child admission to a school for which they have expressed a preference. The process by which this works, including the required timetable for the lodging and hearing of appeals, is set out in the [admissions](#) and [appeals](#) codes. These were last updated in February 2012.

Applicants have the right of appeal against all schools for which they were not offered a place, if that school was placed as a higher preference than the one they were offered.

The appeal is made directly to the relevant admissions authority for that school. This is the local authority for community and voluntary controlled schools and the school's governing body for voluntary aided, foundation and academy schools.

If the appeal panel finds in the favour of the parent, then that decision is binding on the admissions authority concerned, who are therefore required to find the child a place at the school.

## 6. Background: changes to the collection and publication

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| Academies included               | Academy schools are now required to complete the admissions appeals module of the school census. They are therefore included in both the admissions and appeals totals throughout.  |
| Time period changed              | Previously the appeals data was collected relating to the whole of the academic year, and not published until the year after that academic year was completed (so 2010/11 data was published in 2012). This year we have brought the collection forward to only include appeals relating to the start of the academic year (collecting data in January 2014 on appeals lodged before 1 September 2013 relating to entry into the start of 2013/14). |
| Year reported on brought forward | Because of the changes to the time period we are able to publish data relating to the 2013/14 academic year towards the end of the academic year, in July 2014, rather than a year later as previously.   |
| New timeseries started           | Because of the changes detailed above the results cannot be compared with those in previous years. Therefore no comparisons have been made to figures from previous years and a single year's worth of data is provided in table 1. In future years this table will build up a new timeseries of comparable data.   |

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## 7. Got a query? Like to give feedback?

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