

Travelling to school

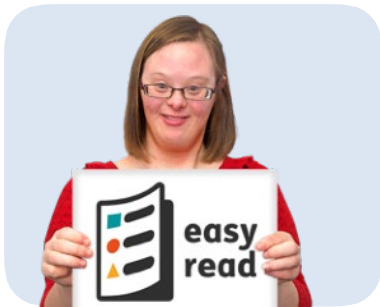
What do you think?

This is an Easy Read version
of the Isle of Wight
Council's School Transport
Policy Consultation



**Easy
Read**

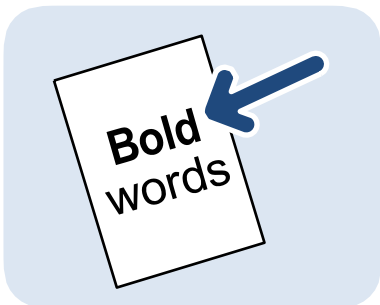
Easy Read



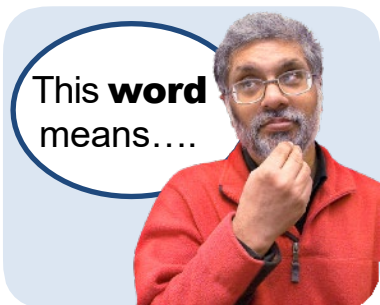
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. You may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

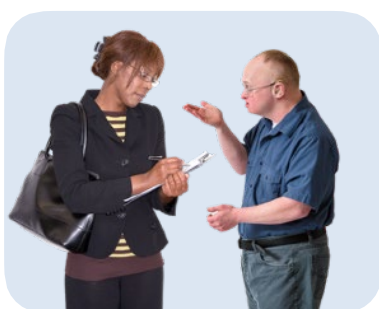
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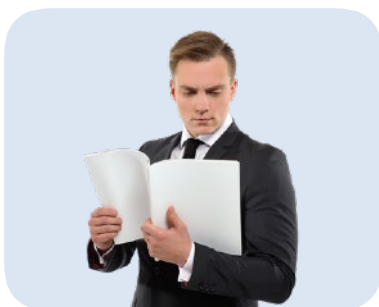
About this booklet



The Isle of Wight Council is thinking about changing our rules about helping children and young people travel to school.



We want to know what you think.



This will help us decide what to do.



Please read the information and answer the questions.

A graphic of a calendar page showing the date Wednesday 13 March 2024. The date "13" is large and bold, with "Wednesday" above it and "March 2024" below it. There are vertical lines representing the days of the month above the date.

Wednesday
13
March 2024

Please send your answers to us by Wednesday 13 March 2024.



We will follow the law on Data Protection to keep your answers and your name private. You can get more information about how we do this on our website: [Privacy notice \(iow.gov.uk\)](https://www.iow.gov.uk/privacy-notice)

Travelling to school

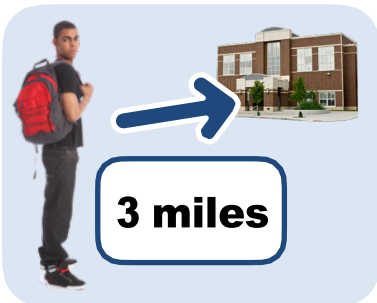


We help about 1,500 children and young people travel to school every day.

The law says that we have to do this for free if:



- The child is under 8 years old and lives more than 2 miles from their nearest school.



- The child or young person is over 8 years old, and lives more than 3 miles from their nearest school.



- The child or young person has to go to a school more than a few miles away, because their nearest school is full.

The law says that we also have to do this for free if:



- The way of walking to school is not safe.



- The child or young person has **SEND** and needs extra help to travel to school, or lives too far away to walk there.

SEND stands for **S**pecial **E**ducational **N**eeds and **D**isabilities. Children and young people with SEND are aged 0 to 25 and need some extra support to learn and grow.



We also help some other children and young people travel to school.



We charge their **parents** some money for this.

In this booklet, when we say **parents** this includes:



- **Birth parents, carers or guardians** - these are people who the law says can look after a child.



- Parents who have **adopted** a child - this is when a child becomes part of a new family when they can't be brought up by their own family.



- **Foster families** - these are families who look after children who cannot live with their own parents.

The changes we are thinking of making

There are 6 changes we are thinking of making:



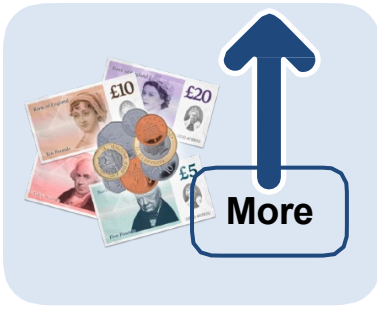
1. Offer some families money, called a Personal Transport Budget, to pay for travel to school.



2. Help some children and young people with SEND to learn to travel to school on their own.



3. Check whether children and young people need Passenger Assistants - these are people who support them on their journey to school or college.



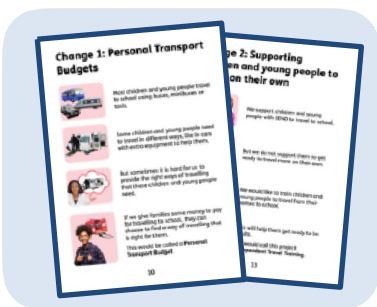
4. Ask parents who pay for their child's journey to school to pay more.



5. Make the information about our rules easier to understand.



6. Stop providing children in Year 10 and 11 free transport if they move away from their school.



We will explain more about these changes in the next parts of this booklet.

Change 1: Personal Transport Budgets



Most of the children and young people that we help travel to school using buses, minibuses or taxis.



Some children and young people need to travel in different ways, like in cars with extra equipment to help them.



But sometimes it is hard for us to provide the right ways of travelling that these children and young people need.



If we give families some money to pay for travelling to school, they can choose to find a way of travelling that is right for them.

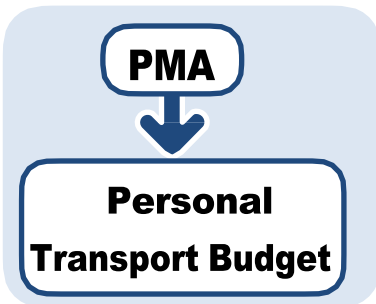
This would be called a **Personal Transport Budget**.



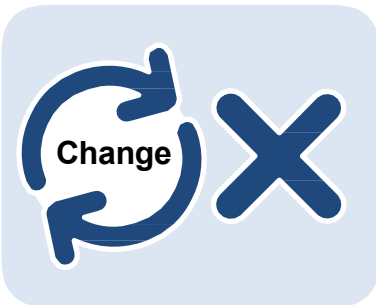
We would only offer this money to families that needed it.



Parents would not have to agree to getting a Personal Transport Budget instead of transport if they did not want one.



We would also change the name of Personal Mileage Allowances (PMAs) to Personal Transport Budgets.



This would make it simpler to support families who get PMAs. It would not change the support they get.



Question 1: How much do you agree or disagree with our idea to offer families a Personal Transport Budget?

Disagree a lot	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree a lot	I do not know



Question 2: If you would like to, please tell us why you think this:

Change 2: Supporting children and young people to travel on their own



We support children and young people with SEND to travel to school.



But we do not support them to get ready to travel more on their own.



We would like to train children and young people to travel from their homes to school.

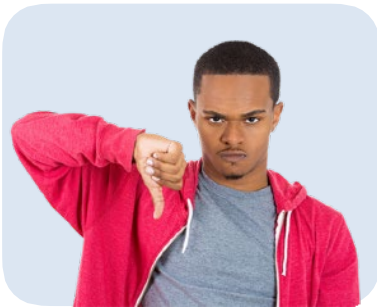


This could help them get ready to be adults.

We would call this project **Independent Travel Training**.



We would find children and young people that we think could travel more on their own if they had training.



We do not think that it would be right for most children and young people with SEND.



Parents would not have to agree to Independent Travel Training for their child if they did not want it.



If a child has used this training to learn to travel to school on their own, we might change how we support them to travel to school.



Question 3: How much do you agree or disagree with our idea to offer children and young people with SEND Independent Travel Training?

Disagree
a lot

Disagree

Neither
agree nor
disagree

Agree

Agree a
lot

I do not
know



Question 4: If you would like to, please tell us why you think this:

Change 3: Passenger Assistants



Some children and young people get help from a person called a Passenger Assistant when they travel to school.



But we do not check if children still need Passenger Assistants as they get older or their needs change.



Some children might need more or less support as they get older or their needs change.



We are thinking of checking whether they need Passenger Assistants as they get older or their needs change.

We would check if a child or young person needs a Passenger Assistant:



- If parents, schools or Passenger Assistants think that the child or young person needs more or less support than before.



- From time to time, like every year, or when the child or young person goes to a new school or college.



Checking would help us to provide Passenger Assistants to children and young people who really need them.



Some children and young people will always need support from a Passenger Assistant.



We will not keep checking if these children and young people need a Passenger Assistant.



Question 5: Do you agree or disagree with our idea to check whether children and young people need Passenger Assistants?

Disagree a lot	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree a lot	I do not know



Question 6: If you would like to, please tell us why you think this:

Change 4 (1 of 2): How much people pay to travel to school



The law says that we must provide free travel for some children and young people to get to and from school.



But sometimes we provide free travel to other children that we do not have to by law.



If the law says the child or young person does not need free travel, but we still provide it, we charge them some money.



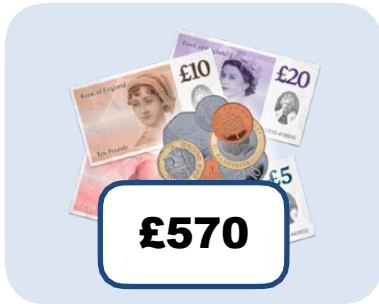
Right now, we charge these families the same amount as we did years ago.



We would like to change the rules so that we can charge these families more.



For example, at the moment we charge £390 each year for a spare seat on a school bus.



We would like to increase this to about £570 each year.



This is because everything costs more than it used to.



There are different ways of measuring how much prices are going up.



Our idea is to use the **Consumer Price Index**. This looks at how much more things in shops cost than they used to.



We would look at the Consumer Price Index to decide how much to increase the amount we charge for extra travel.



We would start charging more from 1 September 2024.



Question 7: How much do you agree or disagree with our idea to charge more for extra travel?

Disagree
a lot

Disagree

Neither
agree nor
disagree

Agree

Agree a
lot

I do not
know



Question 8: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your answers to Question 7?

Change 4 (2 of 2): How much people pay to travel to school



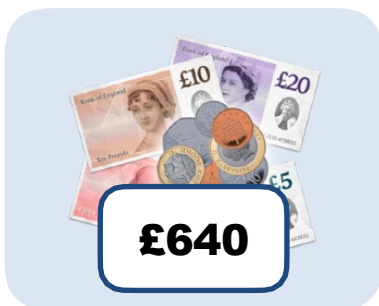
The Council currently pays for some children to travel to school because there are sometimes reasons that mean they need transport arranged for them. The Council do not have to do this or pay for it.



This costs about £20,000 for about 14 children on the Island.



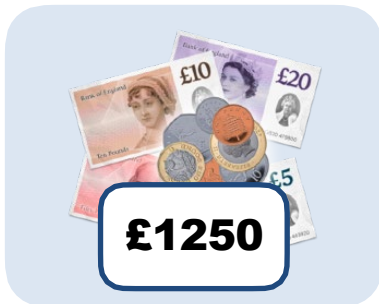
The Council are asking parents to pay towards this travel cost and this amount would change on how far children live from their school.



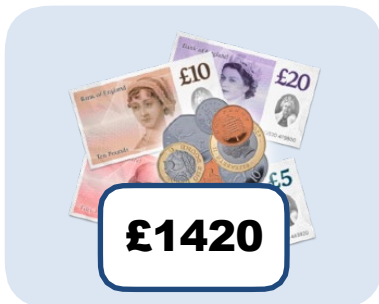
1. This would cost £640 if the child has to travel less than 5 miles to school.



2. This would cost about £890 if the child has to travel between 5 miles to 7.5 miles to school.









3. This would cost about £1,250 if the child has to travel between 7.5 miles to 10 miles to school.

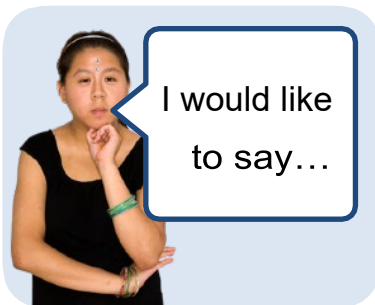


4. This would cost about £1,420 if the child has to travel between more than 10 miles to school.



Question 9: How much do you agree or disagree with our idea to charge more for extra travel?

Disagree a lot	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree a lot	I do not know
					



Question 10: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your answers to **Question 8**?

Change 5: The School Transport Policy



The **School Transport Policy** is a set of rules that explains what we need to do to support children and young people to travel to school.

We are thinking of making some changes to it, to make it:



- More up-to-date.



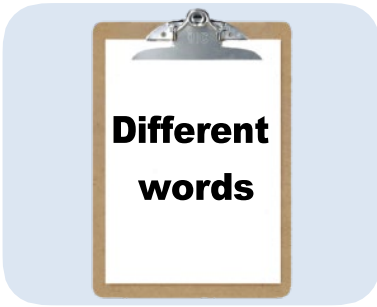
- Easier to understand.



These changes would mean our School Transport Policy fits in with the Government's rules.



There are lots of small changes to the way the rules are written.



These will not change how the rules work. They will just use different words to tell parents about the rules.

There are also 3 main things that could change the way parents think about the rules:



When parents choose which school their child goes to

We would include more information about what we need to do if a parent of a child or young person with SEND chooses which school their child goes to.



The rules are different than if the child or young person with SEND just goes to their nearest school.

Health needs

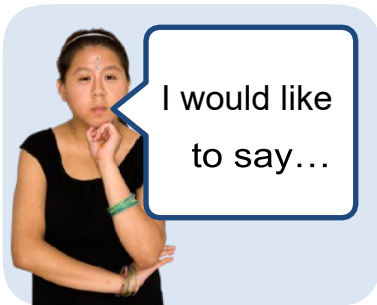


We would include more information about what Passenger Assistants can do if a child or young person has health needs.

Walking

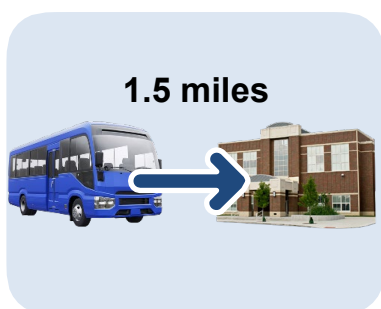


We would include more information about how it is expected that a child will be accompanied by a parent on their walk to school.



Question 11: Is there anything you would like to tell us about these ideas for changes to the School Transport Policy?

Change 6: Transport for Year 10 and 11 students who have moved away from their school



When a family moves house to another area, the Council will sometimes pay to send that child to the same school.



The council does not have to provide or pay for this transport.



These changes would mean our School Transport Policy fits in with the Government's rules.



This would mean that families who move to another house in another area would have to find a way of getting there every day.



Question 12: How much do you agree or disagree with our idea to stop offering transport to children who move away from their school?

Disagree
a lot

Disagree

Neither
agree nor
disagree

Agree

Agree a
lot

I do not
know



Question 13: If you would like to, please tell us why you think this:

Answers to your questions



These are answers to questions that a lot of people have asked:

Will there be changes to whether my child can get free travel to school?



We will not change which children or young people can get free travel to school.

My child gets support from a Passenger Assistant. Would they still get a Passenger Assistant after these changes?



We would check if some children and young people really need a Passenger Assistant.



If your child still needs a Passenger Assistant, they will keep getting one.

My child with SEND gets free travel to school. Can I ask for a Personal Transport Budget?



If we agree that a Personal Transport Budget would be best for your child, then you can get one.

I think that Independent Travel Training would be right for my child. How do I ask for it?



A child or young person would be able to get Independent Travel Training if their parents, school and the Council agree that it would be right for them.



If our ideas happen, you will have a chance to apply for Independent Travel Training.



This would only be after the summer of 2024.

How this might affect you



Question 14: Could these changes affect you? If they could, please tell us how they might affect you.

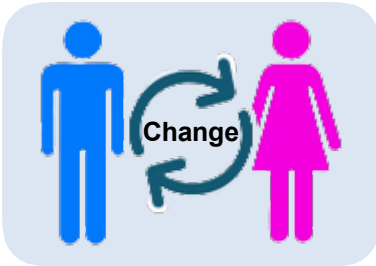
Question 15: Could these changes affect you because of any of these things?



Age



Disability



Changes to your **gender**
Your **gender** is whether you are a man, a woman or something else.



If you are married, or in a civil partnership



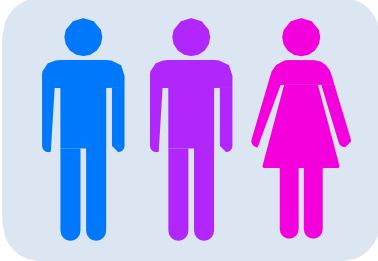
You are pregnant, or you have a baby



Race



Religion or belief



Sex



Sexual orientation - this means which gender you are attracted to. For example male, female or both



If you do not have enough money to afford the things you need to live



If you live in the countryside



Changes to the environment - the environment is the land, the sea, the air and everything that lives in and on it

I do not know

None of these

Anything else



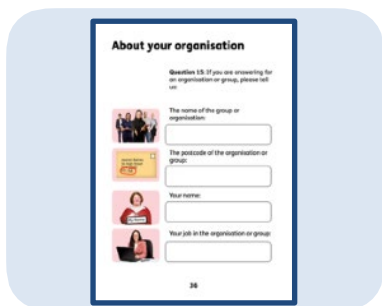
Question 16: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about our ideas to change?

About you

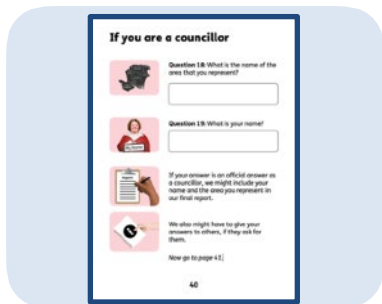
Question 17: Are you answering these questions...



for yourself - *go to page 46*



for an organisation or group - *go to page 41*



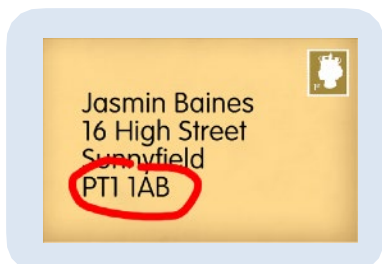
as a councillor - *go to page 45*

About your organisation

Question 18: If you are answering for an organisation or group, please tell us:



The name of the group or organisation:



The postcode of the organisation or group:



Your name:



Your job in the organisation or group:



If your answer is an official answer for your group, organisation or company, we might include its name in our final report.



If your answer is an official answer for your group, organisation or company, we also might have to give your answers to others, if they ask for them.



Question 19: What sort of organisation or group is it?

- A charity or a community group
- A local business
- A local council
- A nursery, school or college
- A public service like Fire, Police or Health
- Other - please say



Question 20: Does your organisation or group provide any of these services?

Please tick all that apply.

- School Transport services
- Other services for children and young people with SEND
- None of these

Now go to page 56.

If you are a councillor



Question 21: What is the name of the area that you represent?



Question 22: What is your name?



If your answer is an official answer as a councillor, we might include your name and the area you represent in our final report.



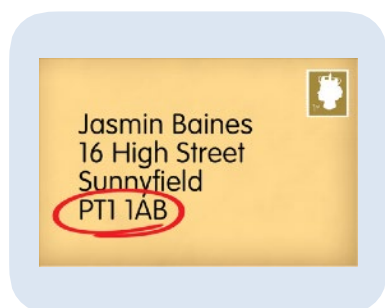
If your answer is an official answer as a councillor, we also might have to give your answers to others, if they ask for them.

Now go to page 57.

More about you



Please answer these questions about yourself. Your answers will help us to make sure we are being fair to different groups of people in Hampshire.



Question 23: What is your postcode?



You do not have to answer this if you do not want to.

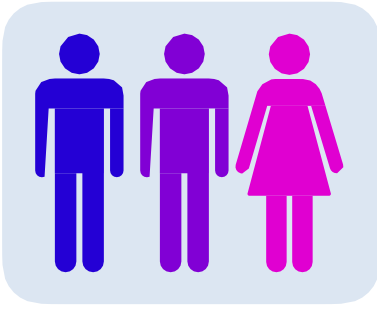


If you live in the countryside, people might be able to tell where your house is from your post code.



Question 24: How old are you?

- Under 16
- 16 to 18
- 19 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 to 84
- 85 or over
- I do not want to say



Question 25: Are you...

Female

Male

I prefer to use my own word -
please say:

I do not want to say



Question 26: Do you have a health
condition or disability that has lasted,
or will last, for more than a year?

No

Yes, but it does not affect my
day-to-day activities

Yes, and it affects my day-to-day
activities a little

Yes, and it affects my day-to-day
activities a lot

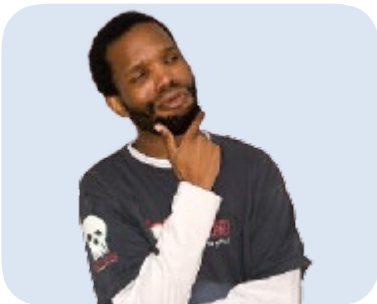
I do not want to say

Question 27: Are you...



Asian or Asian British

- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Indian
- Nepalese
- Pakistani
- Any other Asian background - please say:



Black or Black British

- African
- British
- Caribbean
- Any other Black background - please say:



Mixed or from more than 1 ethnic background

- White and Asian
- White and Black African
- White and Black Caribbean
- Any other mixed background - please say:



White

- English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British
- Gypsy or Irish traveller
- Irish
- Any other White background - please say:



Other ethnic group

Arab

Any other ethnic background -
please say:

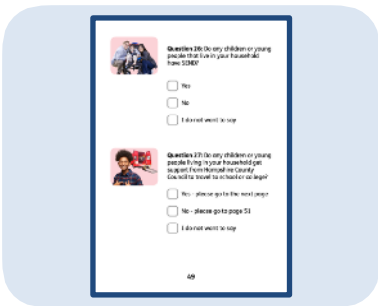


Question 28: Are there any children or young people under the age of 19 living in your household?

This can include you.

Please tick all that apply.

- Yes - aged 0 to 4
- Yes - aged 5 to 11
- Yes - aged 12 to 15
- Yes - aged 16 to 18
- No - under the age of 19
- I do not want to say



If there are children or young people under the age of 19 living in your household, please go to the next page.



If there are no children or young people under the age of 19 living in your household, please go to page 55.



Question 29: Do any children or young people that live in your household have SEND?

- Yes
- No
- I do not want to say



Question 30: Do any children or young people living in your household get support from the Isle of Wight Council to travel to school or college?

- Yes - please go to the next page
- No - please go to page 55
- I do not want to say



Question 31: Do you pay towards travel to school or college that the Isle of Wight Council provides?

- Yes
- No
- I do not want to say



Question 32: If you get support from us, does it include:

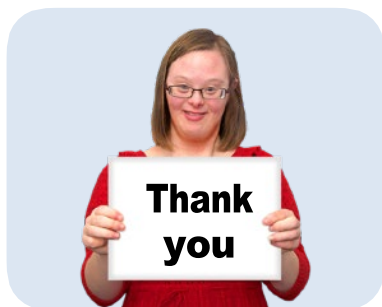
- Money for you to take the child or young person to school - this is called a **mileage allowance**
- A Passenger Assistant or School Escort
- Neither of these
- Not sure



Question 33: How much money comes into your household each year before tax?

- Up to £10,000
- £10,001 to £20,000
- £20,001 to £30,000
- £30,001 to £40,000
- £40,001 to £50,000
- £50,001 to £60,000
- £60,001 to £70,000
- £70,001 to £80,000
- £80,001 to £90,000
- £90,001 to £100,000
- £100,001 or over
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Thank you



Thank you for answering our questions.



Please send your answers to us by Wednesday 13 March 2024.