



FOI REF:	15307
RESPONSE SENT:	05.03.25

## Request:

I am writing to you requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Could you please provide me with the following information:

The number of children's parks in your local area

The number of children's parks in your area that are accessible or contain accessible equipment for disabled children?

## Response

In response to the FOI request, please find the following information:

- Number of Children's Parks: Winchester City Council maintains 24 dedicated play areas, often situated within larger park environments. Please note that play areas outside of the city limits are managed by their respective parish councils.
- Accessibility for Disabled Children: Providing accessible and inclusive play spaces is a priority for Winchester City Council. However, accurately quantifying the number of parks with "accessible equipment" presents a challenge due to the varying definitions of accessibility.
  - o We are dedicated to making all our play areas as accessible and inclusive as possible. While we strive to incorporate accessible elements, such as cradle and basket swings, into all our sites, we recognize that older play areas may not reflect the latest advancements in inclusive design. Therefore, our ongoing refurbishment program is crucial. This program allows us to systematically upgrade our facilities, introducing features like safety swings, accessible slides, platforms, roundabouts, rockers, tactile equipment etc., and improved surfacing, ensuring that our newer play areas offer a more comprehensive and inclusive play experience for all children.
  - o The specific type and distribution of accessible equipment vary across our play areas, meaning no two parks are identical in their offerings.
  - o We understand that accessibility is a sensitive and important issue, and we are committed to continuous improvement. We are working to ensure our play areas are as inclusive as possible, and we are continually reviewing and updating our equipment to meet the diverse needs of our community.

