



11 May 2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 544/18

Dear Sir/Madam

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is provided below.

Request and Response:

I am researching a current affairs film for the BBC about school absence and I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please provide the information for each of the following academic years:

1. The number of times the education authority has initiated prosecutions against parents in relation to unauthorised pupil absence under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996?

Answer:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 2012 - 2013 | * |
| 2013 – 2014 | 6 |
| 2014 – 2015 | * |
| 2015 – 2016 | * |
| 2016 – 2017 | 9 |
| 2017 – 2018 | 7 |

* In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this email message acts as a Refusal Notice.

We can confirm that we hold the information however we are unable to supply it as we consider this information to be exempt due to the low number of individuals identified.

The Council is relying on Section 40(2) – personal information in that it believes the exemption applies because the information is personal information and we believe that disclosure would not be fair or lawful because it would breach the first data protection principle as outlined in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998. We consider that these individuals would have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

2. The number of times schools in your education authority area OR the education authority itself has written to a parent warning of possible prosecution in relation to unauthorised pupil absence under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996?



Answer:

| | |
|-------------|----|
| 2012 - 2013 | 46 |
| 2013 – 2014 | 31 |
| 2014 – 2015 | 73 |
| 2015 – 2016 | 50 |
| 2016 – 2017 | 75 |
| 2017 – 2018 | 40 |

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact the Head of Corporate Governance, Rutland County Council, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP
You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water lane
Wilmslow, Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545700

Yours faithfully

FOI Administrator
Corporate Support Team, Rutland County Council