

## **Freedom of Information – Response – 26620**

*Please provide data for each of the calendar years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 on:*

*1. The number of school pupils in your local authority area who had an Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) OR Education Other Than In School (EOTIS) plan during each of those years.*

Suffolk County Council can confirm that it holds this information, however, the information you have requested is adjudged by the Council to be exempt from disclosure under section 22 (information intended for future publication) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is, therefore, being withheld.

Data for 2025 is available on the following webpage: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-health-and-care-plans/2025>

To view previous years, scroll down the page and click into View Releases on the right-hand side. This will allow you to view previous years' data. The Council is preparing figures and supporting information for agreement and publication for January 2026.

The information you requested can be found by taking the following steps:

- On the relevant year, select download all data, under Quick Links
- This will download a zip file
- Open zip file and then open a file called Data
- Open excel worksheet called Caseload
- Placing a filter on the sheet will allow you to search by LA name in column J
- Columns AQ and AR will show numbers of those whose education placement is recorded as Other. This can include EOTAS.

Section 22 states that, in order to be exempt, information must be held with the intention of publication at the time the request was made. In this instance the requested information will be published on the government website given above in January 2026.

Having said that, in seeking to rely upon this exemption, the Council is required to undertake a 'public interest test' - to weigh competing interests and to determine whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

With respects of disclosing this information in this instance, the following has been taken into account:

### **Factors in favour of disclosure:**

- Facilitate openness and transparency in Suffolk County Council's affairs.
- Further understanding of, and participation in, the debate of issues of the day.

**Factors in favour of withholding:**

- There is a pre-existing commitment to publish this information
- The timescale for the publication of this information is by the end of January 2026, therefore not unreasonable;
- Releasing the information before it has been analysed and prepared would lead to inaccurate assumptions by the public
- For a complete picture, additional resources would be required to improve the accuracy and representativeness ahead of the planned date.

It is accepted, under the legislation, that there is a presumption that information will be disclosed. However, in consideration of the circumstances of this request, it is determined (at this time) that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in its disclosure for the reasons identified above.

Accordingly, it is considered reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the scheduled time.

***2. The combined total value of the personal budgets (or equivalent funding allocations) attached to those EOTAS/EOTIS plans for each of those years.***

Suffolk County Council (SCC) are unable to provide the combined total value of personal budgets (or equivalent funding allocations) attached to those EOTAS/EOTIS plans for each of the calendar years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 as we do not record EOTAS/EOTIS as a category on the case management system and so to find the allocated budget would involve checking each individual EHCP to see if EOTAS/EOTIS was awarded. This would exceed the time allowed for a response under FOIA.

However, SCC can provide a total value spent on education personal budgets for the financial years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.

2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Since April 2025 to October 2025
£33,993	£351,090	£798,443	£1,120,277	£1,118,544

***If your records are organised by academic year, please indicate this and provide the most recent five years of data on that basis instead.***

***If it is not possible to provide the full data within the cost limit, please provide as much as possible within that limit and advise which parts have been excluded.***

