

Freedom of Information – Response – 27078

Please treat this as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For the academic year 2023/24, in your local authority, for children permanently excluded from mainstream secondary schools:

- 1. What was the mean number of school days a child waited between the date of permanent exclusion and the start date at a new education placement?*
- 2. What was the maximum (longest) number of school days a child waited between the date of permanent exclusion and the start date at a new education placement?*
- 3. For how many children did you meet the statutory duty to provide suitable full-time education by the sixth school day following permanent exclusion?*

We can confirm that Suffolk County Council (SCC) holds this information; however, it is exempt from disclosure under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

To complete the request, we would need to manually trawl individual records and also consider the variety of circumstances affecting individual children and also the variety of different educational placements offered to children post permanent exclusions.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for local government is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half working days in determining whether the Council holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

Suffolk County Council estimate that it will exceed the time allowed for an FOI to locate, retrieve and extract the information in reference to your request.

Advice and Assistance

Whilst we cannot provide you with what you have requested, if you are happy to receive information about numbers of children who have received full time education through the Alternative Tuition Service from the sixth day then we may be able to provide you with this information.

Please let us know if you would like us to provide this information.

However, if your question relates to any other type of provision SCC would require further clarification as to whether your enquiry would mean school placement or interim alternative provision.

This information would be calculated from the point that the permanent exclusion process is finalised.

