

Freedom of Information – Response – 27320

1. In the last two financial years (2024/25) and (2025/26) what was the total sum of money you paid to students, who attended schools under your authority's responsibility, as compensation for personal injuries?

£18,196 including solicitor fees and other costs.

2. How many individual claims did these payments represent?

<5

3. For all payments in excess of £2,000 please state the amount of compensation and a brief description of the nature of the claim, e.g. Fall from climbing frame (£2,100), Fingers trapped in door (£3,150).

Suffolk County Council (SCC) can confirm that this information is held however it is being withheld under s.40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) as it constitutes personal data.

Whilst the request asks for a brief description of the claim alongside the compensation amount, we have identified that less than 5 claims fall within the scope of this request. Disclosure of the requested detail (including the nature of the injury and associated payment) would therefore make the individuals reasonably identifiable, particularly when combined with other information already in the public domain or within the local community.

Under Section 40(2), personal data is exempt from disclosure where releasing it would contravene the data protection principles set out in the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018. In this case, disclosure would be unfair and unlawful, as:

- The information relates to private individuals (children/students);
- They would have a reasonable expectation of confidentiality in relation to personal injury and compensation matters; and
- There is no lawful basis for disclosure under Article 6 UK GDPR.

We have considered whether there is a legitimate public interest in disclosure; however, this does not outweigh the rights and freedoms of the data subject, particularly given the heightened sensitivity of information relating to children and personal injury.

As Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption, no public interest test is required, and the information is therefore withheld.

4. In relation to all claims for compensation for personal injury referred to in Q.1 how many of these claims were for injuries sustained as a result of an attack or assault from another student?

None

5. What was the total compensation paid to students who were attacked or assaulted by fellow students?

N/A

Note: These 5 questions relate to compensation claims paid in 2024/25 and 2025/26 irrespective of when the actual injury incident took place or when the claim was lodged. No details of costs and payments to solicitors are requested.