

Freedom of Information – Response – 27587

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for statistics regarding prosecutions for unpaid school absence fines (penalty notices).

Please provide the following information broken down by the last three complete academic years (2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26), as well as the current 2026/27 academic year to date:

1. The total number of school absence penalty notices issued by Suffolk County Council. We can confirm that Suffolk County Council holds this information. However, the information is readily accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain.

Section 21 of the FOIA states that a public authority does not need to provide information under section 1 of the Act if that information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means.

Information can be gathered from the parental responsibility measures DfE release

[Parental responsibility measures, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)

- Select zip file Download all data
- Open downloaded file
- Select data file – this will open a spreadsheet – you can filter the spreadsheet by LA.

Column L gives the number of penalty notices issued per academic year Issued 1-9-2025 to date: 7241

2. The number of these penalty notices that went unpaid by parents/guardians after the 28-day payment window.

Column R gives the number of penalty notices paid before day 28 per academic year

1-9-2025 to date: 794 were unpaid by day 28

3. The total number of cases where the council initiated legal proceedings (prosecutions under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996) following an unpaid penalty notice.

1-9-2025 to date: 181 Legal proceedings have commenced following unpaid FPNs

4. The number of those prosecutions that resulted in a successful conviction, an acquittal, or were withdrawn by the council.

	Proven	WD by LA	Acquittal
23-24	236	36	
24-25	199	29	
25-26	156 to date	18 to date	3 to date