

Freedom of Information Request – Response – 27805

I am making a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding children in your area educated otherwise than at school (EOTAS).

For clarity, please treat the following as separate categories where your records distinguish them:

- (a) children with an EHC plan whose special educational provision is arranged otherwise than in a school under section 61 of the Children and Families Act 2014 (EOTAS);*
- (b) children receiving education arranged by the authority under section 19 of the Education Act 1996 because they cannot attend school.*

Please provide the following for each of the last three completed academic years (2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25):

- 1. The number of children in each category as at the January census date, broken down by sex and by National Curriculum year group (or age band, if year group is not held).*
- 2. The number of children in each category whose provision ended during the year, broken down by the reason or destination recorded on your case management system - for example: returned to a mainstream school; moved to a special school; transferred to further education or training; reached the end of compulsory school age; EHC plan ceased; moved to another local authority; became NEET; other.*
- 3. Of those recorded as returning to a mainstream school, the number who were still on the roll of a mainstream school six months and twelve months after that return.*
- 4. Any recorded information on the age or year group at which children returned to a mainstream school.*
- 5. A copy of your authority's current policy or strategy document covering reintegration from EOTAS or alternative provision, and a copy of your published section 19 policy statement if not already available online.*
- 6. Please confirm whether reintegration is monitored as a performance indicator by your authority, and if so, provide the reported figures for the years above.*

Suffolk County Council (SCC) can confirm that this information is held, however, it is being withheld under s.12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA.) S.12 allows a public authority to refuse a request where it is estimated that complying with it would exceed the appropriate limit (£450 calculated at 18 hours of staff time charged at £25 per hour.)

This is because SCC does not hold destination or outcome information in a central location or a reportable format and to find, retrieve and collate this would require an individual employee to manually trawl multiple case management systems and databases.

A sampling exercise has determined that to provide this information would take us in excess of 18 hours as the data is recorded in free text and this would have to be searched manually to locate, determine and extract the information you have requested.

[Advice and Assistance](#)

Whilst SCC cannot respond to all your questions as requested, we can provide some data for the following questions:

Qs 1 – We are unable to provide the breakdown requested as EOTAS recording did not distinguish between S19 and S61 in the three academic years requested. We can provide overall figures of children in non-school alternative provision/EOTAS including arrangements made under section 61 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and under section 19 of the Education Act 1996. This would be figures as of January each academic year.

For questions, 2,3 & 4, we are unable to report on the next destination or the reason but can provide the provide the number of children whose provision ended in a given calendar year.

We can respond to Q5 and Q6.