

Ms Berlow  
By Email –  
request-15793-61b7431b@whatdotheyknow.com

**Your ref:**  
**Our ref:** App09  
**Date:** 24/09/2009

Dear Ms Berlow

Thank you for your email dated 4 September 2009 requesting a review of a response made by Central Bedfordshire Council. This request was received by Central Bedfordshire Council on the 4 September 2009 and requested the following:

***“I have just... read your response and notice that there are missing answers. I asked how many children in the EHE population are there where there are concerns about the suitability of the educational provision-i.e. the LA considers the education to be unsatisfactory. I also asked for the information to be broken down into reasons why the education is considered unsatisfactory if there are any cases. Please respond to these questions.”***

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I have carried out review of Central Bedfordshire Council's response to your original request for information, which you referenced in your email of 4 September 2009 (our reference 276-2009 Berlow) in which you requested the following:

***“I read that you currently have children registered as Electively Home Educated. Therefore for the purposes of this FOI request, these children are either de-registered from a school or have never been registered with a school.***

***A) I would like to know of these children how many are there where the visiting person has concerns that a 'suitable' education is being provided?***

***B) I would also appreciate it if this information could be broken down into categories: 1)whether they feel that no education is taking place? 2)whether they feel that the philosophy of education is inadequate -for example in the case of autonomous or child led learning , that particular child is not appearing to be learning 'enough'? 3)whether there are concerns because the family have not implemented a structured approach? 4)or whether the fact that the national Curriculum is not being followed is causing concern?***

- C) If there are children in the above 4 categories , please indicate if further steps are being taken- for example , issuance of a School Attendance Order?**
- D) Please also indicate if any any Education Supervision Orders are currently in court for this population?**
- E) Please can you confirm whether any children who fit into the above categories of concern about 'educational provision suitability' would also therefore be referred to Social Services?**
- F) Lastly is it possible in your Local Authority that Social Services are involved with a family but that The EHE department do not know of this involvement (This involvement would be on an on-going basis rather than a one off referral which is found to be of no genuine concern)."**

The response to this request from Central Bedfordshire Council was as follows:

- a. Referrals to social care are made as necessary and if our thresholds for intervention are met the service will accept referrals and our EHE coordinator is briefed as to what scenarios or concerns may require referral.**
- b. Children subject to ongoing social care involvement are checked in relation to their education status at point of referral and the service will then be alerted and have checked to establish if child is EHE.**
- c. If the Local Authority (LA) considers that a suitable education is not being provided it will give the parents the opportunity to amend the provision accordingly. If the provision is still deemed unsuitable the LA will serve a SAO.**
- d. No Education Supervision Orders are currently being served in relation to EHE. Therefore, the Council does not hold the information you requested.**
- e. Concerns about the education not being suitable would not in themselves lead to a referral to Social Care. However, if there was evidence of safeguarding concerns would a referral be made to Social Care.**
- f. In following up EHE cases the EHE service will liaise with other services within the authority, including Social Care.**

To this you responded as follows:

**Thank you for some of the responses to my questions however the important figures form question A and B are missing. i quote them**

**Central Bedfordshire Council**

Priory House, Monks Walk  
Chicksands, Shefford  
Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ

**Telephone** 0300 300 8000

**Email** [customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)  
[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

**here again-**

**A) I would like to know of these children how many are there Where the visiting person has concerns that a 'suitable' education is being provided?**

**B) I would also appreciate it if this information could be broken down into categories for example- 1)whether they feel that no education is taking place? 2)whether they feel that the philosophy of education is inadequate -for example in the case of autonomous or child led learning , that particular child is not appearing to be learning 'enough'? 3)whether there are concerns because the family have not implemented a structured approach? 4)or whether the fact that the national Curriculum is not being followed is causing Ant other reason?**

Following this I have conducted a review of this information, the findings of which are as follows:

1. Following further investigation we can provide the following information in answer to these questions:
  - A. The information held in relation to this is as follows:

<b>Period</b>	<b>Number of Children</b>
04/05	2
05/06	3
06/07	2
07/08	3
08/09	0

- B. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act I can confirm that Central Bedfordshire Council holds no information in relation to this question. The reason for this is as follows: Central Bedfordshire does not create information in relation to the categories requested. The reason for this is that each case is looked at on an individual case-by-case basis and therefore will not fit into simple categorisation.

In addition the Freedom of Information act only requires us to provide information that is held at the time of the request, and is not obliged to create statistical information to provide an answer to a request for information.

2. I can confirm that in answering your request, Central Bedfordshire Council did not respond correctly to question A, and failed to state the position clearly for question B. for which I apologise for any inconvenience caused.

**Central Bedfordshire Council**

Priory House, Monks Walk  
Chicksands, Shefford  
Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ

**Telephone** 0300 300 8000

**Email** [customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)  
[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Should you be unhappy with the outcome of this review, you should make a written appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire. SK9 5AF  
Telephone: 01625 545 700  
Internet: [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Rob Hutton  
Principal Information and Records Officer  
**Telephone:** 0300 300 8000

**Central Bedfordshire Council**

Priory House, Monks Walk  
Chicksands, Shefford  
Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ

**Telephone** 0300 300 8000

**Email** [customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)  
[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)