



Home Office

Immigration Enforcement
FOI & PQ Team
Sandford House
41 Homer Road
Solihull
B91 3QJ

Jen Persson
request-361437-46bfc953@whatdotheyknow.com

www.gov.uk/home-office

31 October 2016

Dear Ms Persson

Re: Freedom of Information – 41221

Thank you for your e-mail of 27 September, in which you ask for information regarding Home Office requests to the Department for Education (DfE) to access the National Pupil Database (NPD). Your query has been handled as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You have asked us to provide:

'Please can you provide copies of all original requests made to, including those fulfilled by, the Department for Education from the Home Office since January 2012 for pupil data to today's date.

The Home Office has received pupil data at individual level. Not all were fulfilled. Please confirm whether each request was for an individual, or for multiple individuals, and the total quantity of individual's data were requested for and provided, on each of the approved request occasions.

This should include the original request and fulfilment date, the volume of data requested and granted, the types of data (by each field) requested and exchanged, and for what purposes they were stated to be used.

I understand there may be redactions for specific personal data contained in the documents.'

I am able to disclose some of the information that you have requested. A response to your request is in the attached Annex.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the address below, quoting reference 41221. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Information Access Team
Home Office
3rd Floor, Peel Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
E-mail: info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk





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As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely

**Immigration Enforcement
Freedom of Information & Parliamentary Questions Team**



Annex

Home Office requests for information from the National Pupil Database since 2012

- One request in October 2013, for name, address and school details for 341 pupils from the National Pupil Database (NPD) where a match could be found from a list of pupils identified on the Home Office Absconder database.
- Frequent requests are made for groups of individuals in the NPD and provide name, address and school details information. The table below provides information available for 2016.

| 2016 | No. of Requests | No. of Individuals |
|-------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jan | 1 monthly | 23 |
| Feb | 1 monthly | 60 |
| Mar | 1 monthly + 1 urgent | 96 (+1) |
| Apr | 1 monthly + 1 urgent | 506 (+1) |
| May | 1 monthly | 326 |
| Jun | 1 monthly + 1 urgent | 406 (+1) |
| Jul | 1 monthly | 498 |
| Aug | 1 monthly + 1 urgent | 232 (+1) |
| Sep | 1 monthly + 1 urgent | 230 (+12) |
| | 9 monthly (+ 5 urgent) | 2377 (+ 16 urgent) |

- All cases within these requests are i) dependant(s) of a parent/guardian who is suspected of an offence under section 24 or 24A of the Immigration Act 1971 or section 35 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004 has been, or is being committed, or ii) the child in question is an unaccompanied minor and the Home Office has lost contact with the child giving rise to concerns over their wellbeing.
- The two requests not granted were due to the NPD not holding the information requested.



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To 'include the original request and fulfilment date, the volume of data requested and granted, the types of data (by each field) requested and exchanged, and for what purposes they were stated to be used.'

Under section 12 of the Act, the Home Office is not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

We hold some of the information which you have requested, but we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. We are therefore unable to comply with it.

Section 17(5) of the Act states that we must provide a brief explanation or example why the cost limit is exceeded. The cost limit would be exceeded as a manual search of each individual record would be needed to ascertain if each request has been fulfilled and the date of that fulfilment.

The £600 limit is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 24 hours of work per request. The cost of locating, retrieving and extracting information can be included in the costs for these purposes. The costs do not include considering whether any information is exempt from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or items such as photocopying or postage.

If you refine your request, so that it is more likely to fall under the cost limit, we will consider it again. Section 16 of the Acts states that we must include advice, wherever possible, on how you might refine the request to bring it under the limit, e.g. by narrowing the timeframe. We have included information about what the Home Office does hold in the area you are interested. Please note that if you simply break your request down into a series of similar smaller requests, we might still decline to answer it if the total cost exceeds £600 and even if a revised request were to fall within the cost limit, it is possible that other exemptions in the Act might apply.

The Home Office has obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998 and in law generally to protect personal data. We have concluded that some of the information you have requested is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the FOI Act, because of the condition at section 40(3)(a)(i). This exempts personal data if disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles in Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act.