



Home Office

Immigration Enforcement  
FOI & PQ Team  
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[www.gov.uk/home-office](http://www.gov.uk/home-office)

8 December 2016

Dear Ms Persson

**Re: Freedom of Information – 41814**

Thank you for your e-mail of 10 November, in which you refine your request 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:

*'Please can you provide copies of the original request (one group of 506, plus one urgent) made to the Department for Education from the Home Office in only April 2016, referred to your material already provided.  
This should include the original request 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.*

*Please also confirm the file statement that there was one request in October 2013 for 341 individuals, then nothing until January 2016.*

I am able to disclose some of the information that you have requested. A response to your request is in the attached Annex, this includes the original request date, the volume of data requested and the purposes they were stated to be used. A redacted copy of the urgent April request is also attached.

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 **41814**. 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](mailto: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

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. Data exchanged, the volume granted and all personal data is not disclosed.

We will not be able to comply with your request for a copy of the 'one group of 506 in April', as this was made to the DfE via a spreadsheet of personal data and all of the information therein would be redacted.

With regard to your request to:

Please also confirm the file statement that there was one request in October 2013 for 341 individuals, then nothing until January 2016. See also reference by Nick Gibb in PQ 48635, to help understand whether the monthly returns began in July 2015 or only in January 2016. "Between July 2015 and September 2016, the Home Office has made requests of DfE data on 25 occasions." (see ref: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-13/48635/> )

We can confirm that Immigration Enforcement (IE) made 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. Since July 2015 Immigration Enforcement have made frequent requests for groups of individuals in the NPD, these were not recorded the way IE record monthly data requests in 2016.

**The Parliamentary Question (PQ) below was answered by the Department of Education, they provided the number of requests they have received from the Home Office, those specifically for the purposes of immigration control and any query regarding this should be made to the DfE.**

Department for Education

Pupils: Personal Records  
48635

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 26 July 2016 to Question 42842 and with reference to freedom of information requests ref: 2016-0032573 and ref: 2016-0042333, on pupil data sharing with the police and Home Office, how many Home Office requests for information to the National Pupil Database for individual personal confidential data that have been granted were for the purposes of immigration control; and if she will make a statement.

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Answered by: [Nick Gibb](#)

Answered on: 27 October 2016



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The National Pupil Database (NPD) is information the Department for Education (DfE) holds on pupils attending schools in England, which includes information collected in the School Census and attainment data from awarding organisations.

The Home Office and police can request data from the NPD where they have clear evidence that a child may be at risk or if there is evidence of criminal activity. The data that can be requested does not include information on nationality, country of birth or English language proficiency.

Between April 2012 and October 2016, the Police have made 31 access requests of the NPD data and the School Census. 21 of these have resulted in information being passed to the police. All were requests for individual level data about individual pupils. Therefore, information about 21 pupils has been shared.

“Between July 2015 and September 2016, the Home Office has made requests of DfE data on 25 occasions. Two of these requests were subsequently withdrawn. During this 15 month period, requests relating to a total of 2,462 individuals have been made by the Home Office to DfE and 520 records have been identified within DfE data and returned to the Home Office.”

### **FOI 40808 - The response to this FOI was based on the 20 Home Office requests confirmed by the DfE as originating from Immigration Enforcement.**

*A Freedom of Information request made to the Department for Education on 4 July 2016 found that the Home Office had made 20 requests for information from the National Pupil Database since 2012, 18 of which were granted ([https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/pupil\\_data\\_sharing\\_with\\_the\\_poli#incoming-846569](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/pupil_data_sharing_with_the_poli#incoming-846569)).*

*I would like to know the reason that each request was made by the Home Office, and the reasons that two of the requests were denied by the Department for Education.*

I am able to disclose some of the information that you have requested. The 20 HO requests the DfE received are made up of:

- a) One in October 2013, for name, address and school details for the 341 pupils from the NPD where a match could be found from a list of 1892 pupils provided by Home Office from their Absconder database, using a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between The Home Office and UK Border Force and the Department for Education.
- b) Monthly requests (since July 2015) - to search for groups of individuals in the NPD and provide name, address and school details information. 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 HO has lost contact with the child giving rise to concerns over their wellbeing.



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- c) The two requests that were not granted were because the NPD did not contain the information requested; we could not find the relevant subjects in the NPD, not because the request was 'denied'.

**FOI 41221 - (additional to FOI 40808) The response to this FOI is based on information provided by Immigration Enforcement from their recorded requests to the DfE.**

- The table below provides Immigration Enforcement 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)
	<b>9 monthly (+ 5 urgent)</b>	<b>2377 (+ 16 urgent)</b>