

5 June 2017

Emma Chan
Sent via email:

Our reference: CAS-381636-7SCC11

request-407497-c2e53a5d@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Ms Chan

Your request for information

Thank you for your request for information submitted via the WhatDoTheyKnow website on 19 May 2017. You have requested *a break down of unauthorised and authorised absences by pupils in schools in England, Scotland and Wales (for the year 2015-2016)*.

The Freedom of Information Act

We have dealt with your request in accordance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

Normally, the first requirement of the Act is that we should confirm whether or not we hold information of the description set out in your request. We are then under a duty to provide you with all the information we hold which falls within the scope of your request, provided it is not 'exempt' information.

However, in this case, pupil absence data for England is available to you via the Department for Education's website¹. Absence data is routinely published with the most recent data covering the period 2015-16.

As this information is readily accessible to you via the DfE website section 21 of the Act does not require us to provide it to you in an alternative way. Consequently we will not be making a separate disclosure in response to this request.

Ofsted does not hold information for schools in Scotland and Wales as we are only responsible for inspecting provisions in England.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-pupil-absence>

I trust that this letter clearly explains our position. If you have any queries about our response, please contact me at 03000 131 287 and I will do my best to address them.

Alternatively, if you remain dissatisfied with our response or the handling of your request, you may request a formal internal review. In order to do this, please write to the following address, setting out which areas of the response you are unhappy with:

Email: Alma Kucera at informationrequest@ofsted.gov.uk or write to:

Head of Information
Ofsted
Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you also have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision as to whether or not we have complied with our obligations under the FOI Act with respect to your request. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:
<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/getting/>

or:

Customer Contact
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alastair O'Neill", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alastair O'Neill
Information Delivery Officer
Information Management Team