



Children, Adults & Health Department

J Carter

Sent via email to:

request-481258-
8ff83ac5@whatdotheyknow.com

Date: 29th May 2018
Our Ref: FIDP/010939-17
Enquiries to: Complaints & FOI
Tel: (01454) 865924
Email: FOI@southglos.gov.uk

Dear J Carter,

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your request for information received on 30th April 2018. Further to our acknowledgement of 02nd May 2018, I am writing to provide the Council's response to your enquiry. This is provided at the end of this letter.

I trust that your questions have been satisfactorily answered. If you have any questions about this response then please contact me again via FOI@southglos.gov.uk or at the address below.

If you are not happy with this response you have the right to request an internal review by emailing FOI@southglos.gov.uk. Please quote the reference number above when contacting the Council again.

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or via their website at www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Complaints and FOI Team

FOI request reference: FIDP/010939-17	Request Title: FOI Request - Educational Concerns
Date received: 30 April 2018	Service areas: Education & Learning
Date responded: 29 May 2018	

FOI Request Questions	Responses
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A) Can you please categorise how those known to the team dealing with elective home education became known? E.g. School, Doctor, self-referral, concerns about the educational provision reported etc.

i) Does the local authority seek to satisfy itself that the educational provision the parent(s) are providing is suitable to the child's age, aptitude, ability and any SEN as soon as they become aware that parents are electively home educating, regardless of how they become known to the local authority?

ii) How many instances have there been in the years (from January 1st to December 31st) 2015, 2016, 2017 and to the date of this FOI where the person dealing with elective home education has or has had concerns that a 'suitable' education is not 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 the 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?*
- 5) a qualified third party is not involved in the child's education?*

A) The vast majority of referrals come from schools with a handful of parents making self-referrals each year when their children would otherwise have been starting school.

i) We aim to contact parents within the first few weeks of the child becoming electively home educated.

ii) We are not able to provide totals as this information is only recorded on a case by case basis. To do a manual check of the hundreds of records for the period specified would take in excess of the 18 hour time limit provided by the Freedom of Information Act.

B) Please see response to Q A(ii).

6) An educational report has not been provided by a third party such as; a teacher etc.

C) I would like to know of these children, how many of these concerns were proven?

i) Of the children in the above 6 categories, please indicate if further steps have or are being taken - for example, referred to CME or issued with a School Attendance Order. Please break it down into each year asked for.

ii) Please indicate how many of these went to court in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

iii) Please also indicate if any Education Supervision Orders are currently in court for this population?

Finally, please provide all recorded documentation relating to elective home education including policies, procedures (2015 - present) and recorded communications relating to elective home education (2017 - present), including any e-mail attachments. This does not include communications between the Elective Home Education team and electively home educating parents or information that falls under S40 (which I expect to be redacted).

C. Please see response to Q A(ii). Where there have been concerns these are discussed and the service will ask the family if they are happy for other agencies to be involved who can help or can provide additional support to the families concerned

- i) Pupils have been referred to CME in cases where there has been complete non-engagement and we have not been able to establish that the pupil is still being home-educated.
- ii) None.

iii) No Current ESOs

Please see below link, which contains a download section for policies and procedures:

<http://www.southglos.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-education/behaviour-and-attendance/educating-your-child-at-home/>

