

Our ref: 940336  
8 March 2018

**J Carter**  
???

Account reference:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Dear Sir/Madam

I can confirm that the information requested is held by Birmingham City Council. I have detailed below the information that is being released to you.

### **Request**

Dear Birmingham City Council,

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?

**PSS Central**  
Strategic Services  
Birmingham City Council

Telephone 0121 464 0085/0121 303 4720/464 5180  
Email: [xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx)

5) a qualified third party is not involved in the child's education?  
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 4 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 (2013 - present) and recorded communications relating to elective home education (2016 - present), including any e-mail attachments. This does not include communications between the Elective Home Education team and electively home educating parents.

## **Response**

**You have been assigned a request for information to action. The request is:**

**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. Referrals come from variety of sources –school, including independent, parents, other LAs, medical professionals, LAC Team, Social Care and other departments.***

***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? Contact is made with the parent through a letter, providing contact details and offering support.***

***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? Although general discussions have taken place with parents / carers regarding 'suitable'***

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*education these have been resolved with the exception of 2 cases in 2016, which went to court, with outcome in favor of the LA.*

**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? LA was unable to establish education was taking place and the parent refused to engage with all agencies, not just the EHE Team.**

**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'? No issue**

**3) whether there are concerns because the family have not implemented a structured approach? No issues**

**4) or whether the fact that the national Curriculum is not being followed is causing concern? No issues**

**5) a qualified third party is not involved in the child's education? No issues**

**6) An educational report has not been provided by a third party such as; a teacher etc. No issues**

**C) I would like to know of these children, how many of these concerns were proven? 2 –as stated B- 1 above**

**i) Of the children in the above 4 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. See above**

**iii) Please also indicate if any Education Supervision Orders are currently in court for this population? None**

**Finally, please provide all recorded documentation relating to elective home education including policies, procedures (2013 - present) and recorded communications relating to elective home education (2016 - present), including any e-mail attachments. This does not include communications between the Elective Home Education team and electively home educating parents. All information is contained on the Birmingham Council Website :-**

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[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/.../elective\\_home\\_education\\_guidance\\_for\\_parents](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/.../elective_home_education_guidance_for_parents)

Please quote the reference number 940336 in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Corporate Information Governance Team  
PO Box 16366  
Birmingham  
B2 2YY  
Email: [xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx)

If you are still dissatisfied with the Council's response after the internal review you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

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

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours faithfully

Strategic Services

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