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Surrey County Council
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Woking
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Tel 0208 213 2597
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15 April 2021

Dear Alex Roberts,

RE: YOUR REQUEST FOI 1475085 UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Thank you for your request for information, which was received on 17 March 2021.

Please find our response below.

Request details:

I would like to make a request under the freedom of information act to obtain information regarding school cluster groups and/or federations of schools within the local authority. I would like the following information please:

Number of clusters and or federations in the authority. Which schools are in each cluster / federation.

The name of the cluster or federation lead / chairperson and the name of the school in which they work.

Service response:

We have considered your request for information. Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not held by Surrey County Council.

Under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FoIA), we deem the information requested to be reasonably accessible to you because it is in the public domain. This response, therefore, acts as a refusal notice under section 17 of the FoIA.

Please note that we interpret the terms “*Cluster*” and “*Federation*” as being two separate entities within the scope of this information request. We deem a “*Cluster*” to be the informal grouping of schools for, e.g., mutual administrative and economic benefit; whereas a “*Federation*” is a group of schools formally linked under one governing body.

Further reading: *Effective school partnerships and collaboration for school improvement: a review of the evidence - Research report - October 2015.*

[Effective school partnerships and collaboration for school improvement: a review of the evidence \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)

"There are a range of different terms used to describe inter-school collaborative activity in practice and in the literature. Terms such as 'partnership', 'network', 'cluster', 'family', 'federation', 'engagement' and 'collaboration' are used interchangeably to describe different ways of schools working with one another making an already complex area even more difficult to discern and trying to identify evidence relating to inter-school collaboration challenging..."

In terms of formal "Federations", the information you have requested is publicly available using the following link – [Get information about schools - GOV.UK \(get-information-schools.service.gov.uk\)](http://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk).

If you click under the tab 'Find an establishment group', and 'Search by: All establishment groups', there is the option to filter by "Federation". Please note, this provides nationwide results.

You may wish to run a separate search for all Surrey establishments to cross reference with the above. This can be done by searching under the tab 'Find an establishment' and 'Search by: Local Authority'.

I have downloaded these search results* – please find attached:

- *GroupExtract (Establishments - Surrey).xlsx*
- *GroupExtract (Federation).xlsx*

***Please note: the information provided is correct as at the time of writing.**

We supply this information based on your original request. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the above address if you have any queries regarding the information enclosed. Remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request for information and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, in the first instance you should contact the County Council, quoting your request number given above, at:

Freedom of Information Officer
Surrey County Council
Legal Democratic & Cultural Services
Woodhatch Place
11 Cockshot Hill
Reigate
Surrey
RH2 8EF
foi@surreycc.gov.uk

If you are not satisfied by the County Council's response to your complaint, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner will normally expect you to have exhausted our complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane

Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Children's Information Governance