



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000329
Date 01 August 2016

Violence in Classroom

Request:

We are currently looking at the issue of violence in the classroom, following a number of reports from teaching unions this year. I'm requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Could you please provide me with the following information;

*We're interested in the most recent results available to you.

1. How many students were excluded at local state runs schools over the most recent 5 year period (e.g. 2011-2016) (both fixed period and permanent)?
2. Of those students how many were excluded for violent behaviour?
3. How many teachers have been physically attacked by a pupil at school over the most recent 5 year period?
4. Of those who were attacked, what types of violence did they experience?
5. Were any teachers attacked with a weapon?
6. Of those who were attacked with a weapon, what was the type of weapon?

We can confirm that the department holds information that you have asked for in relation to Question 1, 2 and 3. However, the information is exempt under section 21 of the FOI Act because it is reasonably accessible to you, and I am pleased to inform you that the information can be found on the DfE's underlying data sheets listed on the Gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-exclusions>

Section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act exempts disclosure of information that is reasonably accessible by other means, and the terms of the exemption mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

You can find out more about Section 21 by reading the extract from the Act, available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/21>

The information for 2015-16 is still provisional and has not been finalised.

We use the same reason codes to record as the DfE so we cannot provide any further information than what's in the DfE's underlying data sheets. For example, we don't record 'types' of violence it is so we can't answer question 4.

We do not record incidents that involve a weapon, type of weapon or whether it's been used against a pupil or adult and therefore we cannot answer question 5 or 6.