

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002219
Date 25 April 2018

School Absence - Warnings and prosecutions under Section 444

Request:

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please provide the information for each of the following academic years:

2012 - 2013
2013 – 2014
2014 – 2015
2015 – 2016
2016 – 2017
2017 – 2018

1. The number of times the education authority has initiated prosecutions against parents in relation to unauthorised pupil absence under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996?
2. The number of times schools in your education authority area OR the education authority itself has written to a parent warning of possible prosecution in relation to unauthorised pupil absence under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996?

In response to your request please find our response below:

| Academic year | Number of initiated prosecutions by LA | Number of warning letters sent to parents from the LA |
|----------------------|--|---|
| 2012-13 | 115 | 850 |
| 2013-14 | 110 | 670 |
| 2014-15 | 134 | 475 |
| 2015-16 | 115 | 366 |
| 2016-17 | 111 | 500 |
| 2017-18* (to Easter) | 138 | 418 |

**While we don't hold numbers in relation to school warning letters, in order to refer to the Local Authority each school must have sent a warning letter prior to referral.*