

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 0116154
Date 26 January 2016

Teachers Assaulted in Schools

Request:

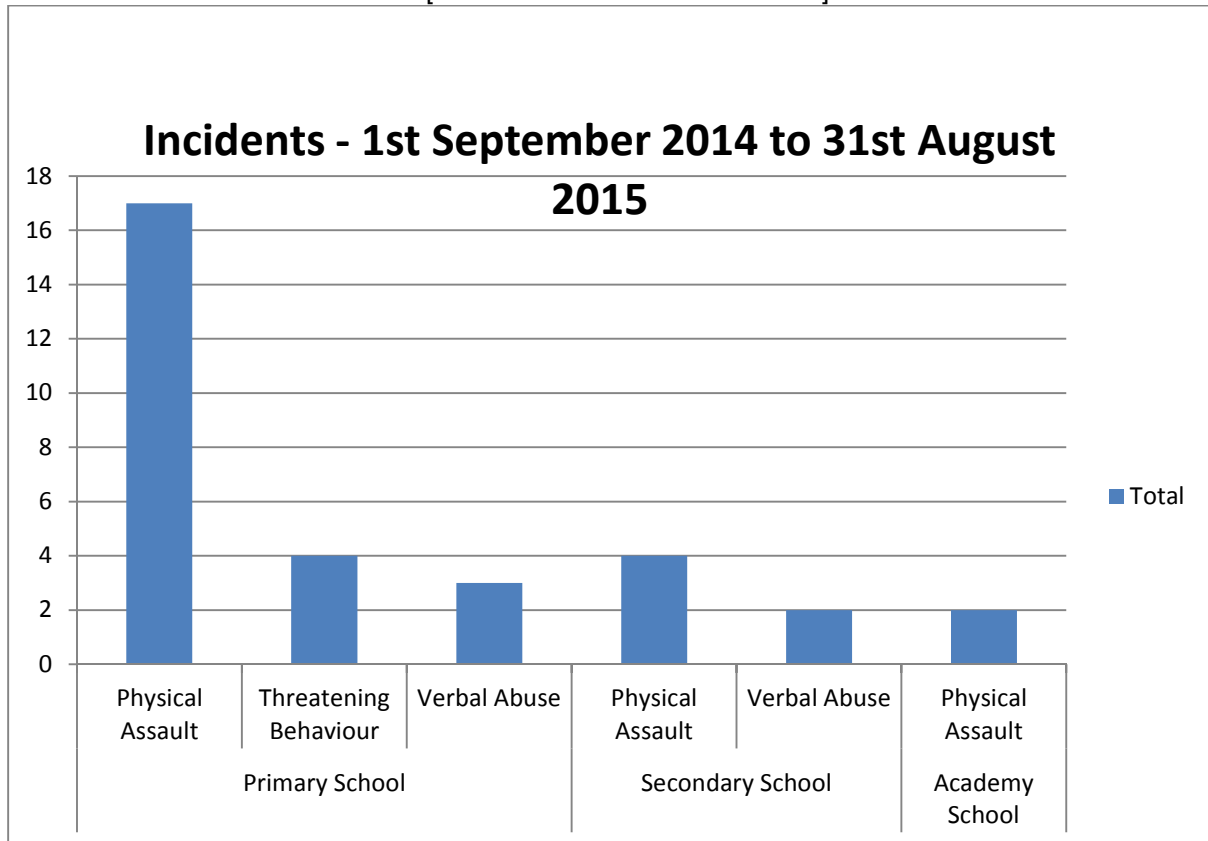
I am writing to you under the FOI Act and expect your response within 20 days.

1. Would you please provide the figures for the number of times a teacher has been physically assaulted at primary schools in council-run schools in the last academic year? [See table below.](#)
2. Would you provide the figures for the number of times a teacher has been verbally assaulted at a primary school in the last year? [See table below.](#)
3. Would you please provide the figures for the number of times a teacher has been physically assaulted at secondary schools in the last academic year? [See table below.](#)
4. Would you provide the figures for the number of times a teacher has been verbally assaulted at a secondary school in the last year? [See table below.](#)
5. Where possible could you provide more details- such as what school and outcome of the issue?

[In response to your question, we can confirm the request falls under Section 40\(2\), Personal Data, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as it asks for information 'other than that of the requester' and where disclosure would breach the data protection principles contained in the Data Protection Act 1998.](#)

[This exemption is applied as we consider that should this information be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, it could be used to identify individuals. By way of further explanation, although you have requested what is intended to be purely statistical information, and have not sought to directly obtain any personal information, we consider in this instance that, while we can confirm that we hold the relevant information, it is correct to refuse disclosure of employee information due to low numbers.](#)

[As a result, such a disclosure would be a breach of the First Principle under the Data Protection Act 1998 \(DPA\); that is the fair and lawful processing of personal information. Consequently we have made the decision to withhold this information under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.](#)



The above table provides information regarding incidents of verbal and physical assault for staff in schools. However, this information is for all school staff (caretakers, cleaners, lunchtime supervisors, teaching assistants etc) and not purely teaching staff, because job titles are not recorded on our system to filter the numbers as requested.