

Request

I would like to request the amount of times teaching staff employed in schools operated by the authority were

- a) physically assaulted and
- b) sexually assaulted

in each of the last three years (2021, 2022 and 2023)?

If teaching staff is not possible, then figures for all staff employed in schools operated by the authority would be acceptable.

Response

We do not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) relieves a public authority from the obligation to comply with a request for information where the estimated time required to locate, review and extract the information exceeds a certain threshold set out in Regulations.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/3244) set out the rules in relation to the cost limit (otherwise called the "appropriate limit"). These Regulations are published by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) and are viewable on their web site from this link: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/uksi_20043244_en.pdf

The Regulations set out the cost limit for Government departments and for other public authorities. For local government, Regulation 3 states that the cost limit is £450 and Regulation 4(4) states that the prescribed hourly rate is £25. Regulation 4(4) further provides that where the local authority estimates the time taken to gather the information would exceed this limit (which based on the prescribed hourly rate, equates to 18 officer hours), it may refuse the request under section 12 of FoIA.

I am satisfied the cost limit applies to your request and will explain why this is the case.

We do not record incidents by headings. To answer this request would entail a manual examination of 457 records at a minimum of 2½ minutes per record would take in excess of the 18 officer hours stipulated in the Freedom of Information Act.

We can however confirm that for the time period in question we had 457 incidents reported on the council incident reporting system (this only relates to schools under our control) with the following breakdown for each year - please note this relates to all incidents.

Breakdown:

2021 – 109
2022 – 189
2023 – 159.