

REQUEST	16302
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1. Please can you provide figures for how many referrals schools in your local authority have made to LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) so far this year and in each of the previous five financial years.
2. If possible, please provide a breakdown of the number of referrals from each school phase (for instance, primary schools, secondary schools, SEND schools and alternative provision) for each of these years.

LADOs should be notified when there is concern a professional or a person who works with children has: “Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child; Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children; Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children; Behaved in a way in their personal life that raises safeguarding concerns.” As such, for each referral that falls within the requested rate range, please provide detail of which of the above concerns was raised in relation to each case if possible. If you are able to provide more detail about the nature of each allegation, please do so.

3. For each case, please let me know if the allegation was serious enough to meet the threshold of harm for an ASV (allegation against staff or volunteers) meeting and/or involving the police. Please also let me know how many cases were not viewed as serious enough to meet this threshold but still required the agency to undertake an internal investigation. If you are not able to provide this level of detail on each case, can you please provide it as a total for each year, preferably separated by school type

LADOs must operate within the Department for Education’s Keeping children safe in education statutory guidance, which states the following definitions should be used when determining the outcome of allegation investigations:

- Substantiated: there is sufficient evidence to prove the allegation;
- Malicious: there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation and there has been a deliberate act to deceive;
- False: there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation;
- Unsubstantiated: there is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation. The term, therefore, does not imply guilt or innocence;
- Unfounded: to reflect cases where there is no evidence or proper basis which supports the allegation being made.

4. For each case, please let me know which of the above outcomes was recorded. If cases are ongoing, please say so. As stated above, if you are not able to provide this level of detail on each individual case, can you please provide it as a total for each year, preferably separated by school type?
5. For each year I’ve requested data on, can you please let me know the overall number of referrals from all sources (and if possible provide a breakdown of what the main referral sources where?)

RESPONSE:

- 2019/20: 42
2020/21: 14
2021/22: 13
2022/23: 23
2023/24: 33
2024/25: 0

2. This information is currently not available in the database where LADO information is reported from.

3.

Year	Strategy meeting held			Referral managed by LADO		
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
19/20	11	15	26	26	16	42
20/21	7	7	14	14	0	14
21/22	11	2	13	13	0	13
22/23	6	7	13	13	10	23
23/24	3	7	10	10	23	33
24/25	0	0	0	0	0	0

Referral managed by LADO='No' means after initial investigation, no further action required by LADO

4.

Outcome	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
Substantiated	9	9	8	4	2	
Malicious						
False						
Un-substantiated	11	4	2	4	4	
Unfounded	5	1	2	3	1	
Threshold not met			1	1	2	
Not yet known	1			1	1	
Total (cases managed by LADO – see Q3)	26	14	13	13	10	0

5.

Referral source	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
Armed Forces				1		
CAFCASS		1			1	
Early Years	12	3	4	10	5	
Education	42	14	13	23	33	
Faith Groups					1	
Foster Carer	4	4	6	10	5	
Health	10	7	2	2	5	
OFSTED		1		4		
Other (please specify)	5	1		3	8	
Police	13	12	5	7	7	
Residential provision	7	11	7	5	11	1
Social care	39	22	16	23	23	
Supporting body / organisation	6		1	1	3	
Voluntary Organisation	4	2			1	
YOT				1		
Youth Service	2		1	1		
Forms in draft					29	
Total	144	78	55	91	132	1