

From: Foi Enquiries <FoiEnquiries@aberdeencity.gov.uk>

Sent: 30 October 2019 10:46

Subject: FOI-19-1337 - Drug Seizures in Schools

Thank you for your information request of 7 October 2019. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested. Our response is now detailed below.

- **The total number of drug seizures from pupils in A) primary and B) secondary schools, broken down by each of the last five academic years (up to 2018-19)**

We do not record this information within our systems. In order to obtain this information schools would be required to look at individual pupil records to identify whether drugs have been seized following an incident.

We are unable to provide you with information on **the total number of drug seizures from pupils** as the cost of providing this has been calculated as being in excess of the statutory maximum (£600).

To explain this, it would involve a member of staff in each school searching through every individual pupil's file for the information sought, making notes and collating the data. A conservative estimate is that it would take 10 minutes to complete this process for each file so, for example, in a secondary school with a roll of 800 pupils this would equate to over 133 hours of work and a cost in the region of £2,000.

As this search would have to be carried out for each of the requested years and given that the same process would have to be replicated in all our schools, we will be unable to answer your request.

In order to comply with our obligations under the terms of Section 16 of the FOISA, we hereby give notice that we are refusing your request under the terms of Section 12 - Excessive Cost of Compliance - of the FOISA.

- **A list of the five schools where drug seizures were most common during that entire time period – and the number for each**

We do not record this information. Please see the response to question 1.

We are unable to provide you with information on **the five schools where drug seizures were most common** as it is not held by ACC. In order to comply with our obligations under the terms of Section 17 of the FOISA, we hereby give notice that this information is not held by us.

- **A list of the five most common types of drug seized in schools – and a number for each – broken down year-by-year**

We do not record this information. Please see the response to question 1.

We are unable to provide you with information on **the five most common types of drug seized in schools** as it is not held by ACC. In order to comply with our obligations under the terms of Section 17 of the FOISA, we hereby give notice that this information is not held by us.

- **The total number of pupils who have been suspended or expelled due to possession of drugs on school premises**

The Scottish Government publishes validated data for this information.

You may wish to visit the Scottish Government webpage on temporary school exclusions at: <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/exclusiondatasets>, to view the number of exclusions for substance misuse in Aberdeen City schools which provides a breakdown of non-alcohol substance misuse exclusions.

We are unable to provide you with information on **the total number of pupils who have been suspended or expelled due to possession of drugs on school premises** as it is not held by ACC. In order to comply with our obligations under the terms of Section 17 of the FOISA, we hereby gives notice that this information is not held by us.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST

We handled your request for information in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under FOISA.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,



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