

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

Date: 16 August 2022

Public Authority: **Governing Body of Rastrick High School**
Field Top Road
Rastrick
Brighouse
West Yorkshire
HD6 3XB

Decision

1. The complainant has requested information relating to sickness absence at Rastrick High School (the School). The Commissioner's decision is that, on the balance of probabilities, the School does not hold the requested information.

Request and response

2. The complainant made the following information request to the School on 16 March 2022:

"Please could you answer the following questions under the Freedom of Information Act:

- 1) In the Academic Year Sept 2020 to July 2021 – how many days of absence were there for students citing a physical illness as the reason.
- 2) In the Academic Year Sept 2020 to July 2021 – how many days of absence were there for students citing a mental illness as the reason.
- 3) How many of the physical illness days were recorded as Unauthorised?
- 4) How many of the mental illness days were recorded as Unauthorised?

- 5) How many times was a Doctor's note requested for the physical illness days?
 - 6) How many times was a Doctor's note requested for the mental illness days?"
3. The final position of the School was that it does not hold the requested information.

Reasons for decision

4. This reasoning covers whether the School holds the requested information.
5. The position of the School is that it collects and records attendance in line with statutory requirements and confirmed that these do not include recording the different types of illness (physical and mental) with regards to students' attendance.
6. The Commissioner is satisfied that, on the balance of probabilities, the School does not hold the requested information.
7. The Commissioner appreciates that the complainant may believe that the School should hold the requested information. However, FOIA is to do with transparency of information held by public authorities. It gives an individual the right to access recorded information held by public authorities at the time the request for that information is made. FOIA does not cover whether public authorities should hold information - it only provides access where information is held.

Right of appeal

8. Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)
GRC & GRP Tribunals,
PO Box 9300,
LEICESTER,
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0300 1234504

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: grc@justice.gov.uk

Website: www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber

9. If you wish to appeal against a decision notice, you can obtain information on how to appeal along with the relevant forms from the Information Tribunal website.
10. Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

Signed

Michael Lea
Team Manager
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Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF