

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/501622

I am writing to make a Freedom of Information Request about Seclusion and Restraint in Schools. If there is anything you need clarified about the wording or any other issue please get in touch.

In this request it's worth defining what I mean by certain terms.

SECLUSION is any instance where a child is removed from a classroom or other environment without their consent and confined alone in a room or other area.

RESTRAINT is where any child is physically held to restrict their movement without their consent.

SCHOOL applies to all local authority run schools, whether Special or Mainstream.

The Scottish Government made it clear in 2017 that restraint and seclusion should be monitored. saying..

Any incident where a decision is made to physically intervene must be recorded and monitored.

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00521260.pdf>

I would ask the following

RESTRAINT

1 Are you recording the use of restraint in schools?

Yes. All incidents of Physical Intervention should be recorded on the RIVO Safeguarding System. Also new guidance is currently in development and a RIVO Monitoring Group has been established.

2 How many instances of Restraint have been recorded since relevant guidance was published in June 2017?

90 across all education sectors.

3 How many instances of restraint resulted in Injury?

0 recorded injuries to pupils.

4 How many instances of Restraint were judged to be inappropriate?

0 recorded.

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SECLUSION

5 Are you recording the use of seclusion in schools?

No. New guidance is being developed.

6 How many instances of seclusion have been recorded since relevant guidance was published in June 2017?

0 recorded

7 How many instances of seclusion resulted in Injury?

0 recorded.

8 How many instances of seclusion were judged to be inappropriate?

0 recorded.