

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/536881

In accordance with FOI I would like to know attendance at primary and secondary schools in your area during their first week back after the summer holidays.

Suggested questions below. But happy to tailor them if there is an easier way of collating the information...

What percentage of pupils attended on each day of your first week back? (This should be a council-wide figure, but if school-by-school is easier I'm happy to take that. If your first week starts on a Tuesday, for example, then obviously we're just talking about four days).

How many pupils were absent on each day?

How many of those absences were unauthorised?

The way that the attendance reports are set up, it is not possible for East Lothian Council (ELC) to easily report on the number of pupils across the authority that were absent on specific days. In order to do so, ELC considers that a fee would apply, please refer to Appendix I overleaf.

Instead, however, we are able to provide the total absence rate and unauthorised absence rate for the first 3 days of the first week in August 2018:

15/08/2018

School Type	Session Year	% Unauthorised Openings	% Total Absence
Primary	2018	1.32	1.83
Secondary	2018	2.97	4.63

16/08/2018

School Type	Session Year	% Unauthorised Openings	% Total Absence
Primary	2018	1.21	2.08
Secondary	2018	3.43	5.77

17/08/2018

School Type	Session Year	% Unauthorised Openings	% Total Absence
Primary	2018	1.5	2.89
Secondary	2018	3.68	5.97

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Appendix I

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 allows public authorities to impose charges for responding to information requests as follows:

- *If the cost is £100 or less, East Lothian Council (ELC) is obliged to comply with the request.*
- *If the cost is £100-£600 ELC is obliged to comply but can charge the applicant 10% of the cost (less the first £100), and does not need to do the work until the fee is paid.*
- *If the cost of providing the information (eg interrogating systems, manually checking records etc) exceeds £600 then ELC is not obliged to comply with the request.*

In working out costs, ELC cannot charge more than £15 an hour, and if the person doing the work gets paid less than this, ELC can only charge their hourly rate.

The following figures have been calculated based on information provided by ELC's Education service:

26 hours capped @ £15ph	£390
Less the first £100.00	£290
10% of £290	<u>£29</u>

If you would like ELC to provide the specific information requested, a cheque for £29, made payable to "East Lothian Council", should be sent to the address shown below. Please ensure that the reference "2018/536881" is quoted in the covering correspondence and clearly written on the reverse of the cheque.

For your information, links to the Council's charging policy as well as the Scottish Information Commissioner's "What might it cost?" have been provided for reference purposes:

- [ELC Charging Policy](#)
- [What might it cost?](#)

Contact address:

FAO: Information Governance Officer
Freedom of Information Team
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA