

Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am seeking information from RNN Group about student exclusions.

In the interest of clarity, I am pursuing this FOI to build up a national picture of how many suspensions and exclusions are happening in the FE sector. This is because the Department for Education publishes exclusion statistics at a state-school level but not in post-16 providers.

Therefore, please can you provide the following information:

- The total number of learners partially excluded at your college(s) for each year over the last five academic years (beginning from 2018/19 to 2023/24),
- The total number of learners permanently excluded at your college(s) for each year over the last five academic years (beginning from 2018/19 to 2023/24).
- The top three common reasons for suspension for each year over the last five years.
- The top three common reasons for permanent exclusion for each year over the last five years.

Please provide the answers in an excel spreadsheet and/or word document.

Please let me know if you require any further explanation.

As this is an FOI, I expect to receive the response within 20 working days. This requirement is applicable even during the summer holidays. As such, a response to this request received today (30th July) will be due on Thursday 29th August.

If the decision is made to withhold some of this information using exemptions in the Act, I would be grateful if you could please inform me and cite the exemptions used.

Please confirm at your earliest convenience that this FOI request has been received and sent to the relevant Freedom of Information officer.

Our Ref: FOIA243

Your Ref: N/A

Date: 29th August 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST (FOI): “Student Exclusions”

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 30th July 2024. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Any correspondence regarding this should be addressed to FOI@rnngroup.ac.uk

Please note that we will be providing a response on behalf of the RNN Group as a whole, rather than any individual college or organisation within the Group.

The RNN Group main centres of operations are located at the following sites:

| Site Name | Address |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Rotherham College | Eastwood Lane, Rotherham. S65 1EG |
| North Nottinghamshire College | Carlton Road, Worksop. S81 7HP |
| Dinnington Campus | SITE NO LONGER IN OPERATION* |
| Dearne Valley College | Wath upon Dearne, Swinton. S63 7EW |
| University Centre Rotherham | Doncaster Gate, Rotherham. S65 1DJ |
| RNN Training | Carlton Road, Worksop. S81 7HP |
| Idle Valley Rural Centre | North Road, Retford. DN22 8SG |
| Construction Centre Rotherham | Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham. S60 1RU |
| Skills Centre Shireoaks | SITE NO LONGER IN OPERATION* |
| National Fluid Power Centre | Carlton Road, Worksop. S81 7HP |
| Create Skills Ltd | SUBSIDIARY COMPANY CEASED TRADING* |
| Charnwood Training | SUBSIDIARY COMPANY CEASED TRADING* |
| Aston Recruitment & Training | NO LONGER OWNED BY THE RNN GROUP* |
| Rotherham Education Services | Eastwood Lane, Rotherham. S65 1EG |
| Retford Post 16 Centre | Old Hall Drive, Retford. DN22 7EA |
| Nottinghamshire Children & Family Partnership | PARTNERSHIP HAS CEASED* |

*Data from these sites have been re-located to other centres within the RNN Group, and if applicable, have formed part of the search for the information requested.



Below is the information you requested:

| Year | Suspensions |
|--------------|--|
| 2018/2019 | COVID RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE - NOT CENTRALLY RECORDED |
| 2019/2020 | COVID RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE - NOT CENTRALLY RECORDED |
| 2020/2021 | |
| Total | 31 |
| 2021/2022 | |
| Total | 58 |
| 2022/2023 | |
| Total | 44 |
| 2023/2024 | |
| Total | 98 |

| Year | Exclusions (Withdrawals)* |
|--------------|--|
| 2018/2019 | COVID RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE - NOT CENTRALLY RECORDED |
| 2019/2020 | COVID RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE - NOT CENTRALLY RECORDED |
| 2020/2021 | |
| Total | 25 |
| 2021/2022 | |
| Total | 27 |
| 2022/2023 | |
| Total | 22 |
| 2023/2024 | |
| Total | 29 |

*Withdrawn despite supportive interventions due to concerning levels of behavior.

Suspensions/Exclusions (Withdrawals) fall into one of the following categories:

- Gross Misconduct
- Attendance

Please note, whilst you have exercised your right to information under FOI, the RNN Group may not release some data it has on record. For example, if it contains personal details of individuals or if other exemptions apply, as detailed within the FOI legislation. See the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) website for further details as to what this means to you and the request you have made:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-freedom-of-information/what-is-the-foi-act/>

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA, and in keeping with the RNN Group's transparency agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you may now be published on the Group's website at www.rnngroup.co.uk/IG together with any

related information that will provide a key to its wider context. Please note that this will not include your personal data.

Attached is Appendix A, giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received from the RNN Group in regards to this FOI request.

If you have any queries about this letter then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

The RNN Group Information Governance and Assurance Team

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Appendix A

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request, you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under chapter 36, part 1, section 17 (7) of the Freedom of Information Act or under chapter 12, part 6, section 165 of the Data Protection Act (Article 57(1)(f) and (2) and 77 of the General Data Protection Regulations), within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

A copy of our complaints process can be found on the RNN Group website by following the link below and selecting the Feedback and Complaints section:
<https://www.rnngroup.co.uk/IG>

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review of your complaint, the DPA gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted the RNN Group's own complaints procedure.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF