

38961

How many referrals have been made to Children's Services by schools/parents where allegations or complaints have been made concerning the use of restraint in educational settings? Where the complaints or allegations have prompted there to be a safeguarding referral. Please define data into settings and who reported or made the referral.

The referrals from all education settings to include nurseries, primary and secondary schools, specialist, mainstream and independent.

Restraint includes the use of mechanical restraint, physical and chemical restraint.

Please can information be supplied for the last 7 years.

May I also have the numbers of children in question 1 who have been identified as having an additional need, disability e.g., physical or learning disability or autism.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide you with the information you have requested as the cost to the Council of locating, retrieving and providing you with the information exceeds the statutory maximum of £600.

This information is not held centrally, therefore, to provide this information we would need to approach every establishment for information they hold. This would require a manual trawl and interpretation of the data which could take several hours per establishment.

In addition to the 150 council education schools, there are 109 private, voluntary and independent early years settings in partnership and 43 childminders; a total of 302 establishments. The care inspectorate would hold information on any incidents reported for these settings.

It is estimated that it would take at the very least, one hour per establishment to provide this information. For one year alone this task would take in excess of 302 hours.

if a referral is made, but then it is decided that the case should not be progressed, what reasons might there be for this to happen. Please give examples.

Please supply figures for cases that have been referred and then the case closed no further action.

A referral could be managed under a service complaint, a child protection investigation or other allegation. If a referral is made, then in all cases, it would be progressed to the investigation stage following the City of Edinburgh Council policies and procedures. As advised above, this information is not held centrally, and each establishment would need to carry out a manual trawl and the data extracted.

What guidance does the LA give to schools on the use of restraint?

Mainstream staff are not trained in the use of restraint as this is not used in mainstream schools.

10 special schools in City of Edinburgh Council staff are trained in CALM. Staff are re-accredited annually in CALM. <https://calmtraining.co.uk>