

## 61614 Newspaper Reports on School Bullying

I wish to request the following information:

All material from with the Children, Department about two newspaper articles that said City of Edinburgh Council had the worst school bullying in Scotland.

They were published on Monday September 29 2025:

The Herald - <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/25498634.64-000-school-bullying-incidents-reported/>

The Times - <https://www.thetimes.com/uk/scotland/article/school-bullying-violence-blamed-on-scotland-snp-dkpnkvd7#:~:text=The%20highest%20number%20of%20bullying,ln>

This may include briefings or emails to the Convener of the Committee as he was quoted in the Herald article.

The communications may be before publication or after publication.

This may include information sent to councillors or senior staff in the department.

We provided the below response from Education, Children and Families Convener Cllr Dalglish in relation to a request for comment from a journalist at The Herald on 26 September 2025.

Councillor James Dalglish, Education, Children and Families Convener said:

“It is worrying to hear that has been a rise in incidents of bullying in our schools. Any allegation of bullying in our schools is taken seriously and we will take appropriate action against any pupil who behaves inappropriately. We work pro-actively to prevent and respond to bullying and prejudice, where it occurs. This includes listening to and reassuring a child or young person who has experienced bullying and introducing support measures if required. We work with individuals who have bullied others to reinforce the message that bullying and prejudice is not acceptable.”

---

**From:** XXXX@edinburgh.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 26 September 2025 13:47  
**To:** James Dalglish <Cllr.James.Dalglish@edinburgh.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** XXXX@edinburgh.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** For review - bullying - The Herald

Hi James

The Herald are running a piece on the rise in cases of bullying in schools over the weekend.

Details and draft comment below for review.

Thanks

XXXX

## ENQUIRY

- The Political Correspondent at The Herald is writing a piece on the rise in incidents of bullying in schools across Scotland.
- An FOI that shows more than 17,000 incidents of bullying in Edinburgh schools in a five-year period.
- Edinburgh has the highest number of bullying incidents of any other local authority, although the article will reflect that Edinburgh data uses the highest possible count of incidents.

## DRAFT RESPONSE

Councillor James Dalgleish, Education, Children and Families Convener said:

“It is worrying to hear that has been a rise in incidents of bullying in our schools. Any allegation of bullying in our schools is taken seriously and we will take appropriate action against any pupil who behaves inappropriately. We work pro-actively to prevent and respond to bullying and prejudice, where it occurs. This includes listening to and reassuring a child or young person who has experienced bullying and introducing support measures if required. We work with individuals who have bullied others to reinforce the message that bullying and prejudice is not acceptable.”

“If and when bullying does occur, there is a clear Policy in place for staff to follow to ensure incidents are logged as soon as they happen, so that appropriate action can be taken and support put in place. We moved to a new recording system in 2019 and have worked hard to improve awareness of, and our response to, bullying. It is also important to promote positive behaviour and to ensure all the pupils are supported in their relationships to demonstrate respect for themselves and others.”

---

Third-party personal information has been redacted from the correspondence provided. The release of such data would be a breach of the Data Protection Act 2018 in terms of fair processing as it would not be fair, lawful or expected for information which could identify individuals to be released into the public domain. This information would therefore be exempt in terms of Section 38(1)(b) read in conjunction with Section 38(2A)(a) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Please note that this letter constitutes a formal refusal notice under section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.