

61629 Planned Mass Shooting at Edinburgh School

In July 2025 the teenager Felix Winter was jailed for six years for planning a mass shooting event at an Edinburgh school.

Online reports say this was Balerno Community High School.

Please provide the following material related to this:

- Any communication that detailed restrictions in place for this incident and whether these are still in place – and therefore may impact on this FOI
- Any briefing provided to elected representatives on the incident and safety measures put in place as a result
- Any report into the circumstances surrounding the incident that found factors or issues to address within the secondary school that may contributed to the teenager's planned actions.

For example, this may be, bullying, wellbeing support or equality discrimination.

I shall address each of your points in turn.

- Risk assessments were in place at the time of the incident. However, the release of this information would breach the Data Protection Act 2018.
- Elected members were not briefed on the incident or the safety measures following the incident. Therefore, this information is not held.
- There was no learning report into the circumstances surrounding the incident, and so this information is not held

What lessons learned were identified and what actions were taken to implement them across Edinburgh schools as a preventative safety measure?

There was no learning review, and no actions were implemented as this was deemed to be an individual set of circumstances. There is therefore no recorded information held.

At sentencing the judge referred to the transgender teenager being a victim of bullying.

Please state the number of bullying incidents reported at Balerno secondary school between 2020-2026 and those related to equality discrimination grounds.

Please refer to the incident and incident categories recorded in each school year, and to the notes provided below.

2020/21 – There were 13 incidents recorded under the following categories:

'Actual or perceived Sexual orientation (e.g. homophobic, bi-phobic)', 'Disability', 'Not known', 'Other'.

2021/22 – There were 75 incidents recorded under the following categories:

'Actual or perceived Sexual orientation (e.g. homophobic, bi-phobic)', 'Additional support needs', 'Care Experience', 'Disability', 'Gender identity or Trans identity', 'Not known', 'Race and racism including culture'.

2022/23 – There were 113 incidents recorded under the following categories:

'Actual or perceived Sexual orientation (e.g. homophobic, bi-phobic)', 'Additional support needs', 'Body Image and physical appearance', 'Disability', 'Gender identity or Trans identity', 'Not known', 'Other', 'Race and racism including culture'.

2023/24 – There were 223 incidents recorded under the following categories:

'Actual or perceived Sexual orientation (e.g. homophobic, bi-phobic)', 'Additional support needs', 'Body Image and physical appearance', 'Not known', 'Other', 'Race and racism including culture'.

2024/25 – There were 22 incidents recorded under the following categories:

'Actual or perceived Sexual orientation (e.g. homophobic, bi-phobic)', 'Gender identity or Trans identity', 'Not known', 'Race and racism including culture'.

2025/26 – There were 29 incidents recorded under the following categories:

'Additional support needs', 'Body Image and physical appearance', 'Disability', 'Not known', 'Race and racism including culture'.

Notes:

1. The incident count shown is the highest possible count of incidents: it includes each instance of the nature of the incident, per pupil experiencing, perceived reason and location of incident. For example, if one pupil experienced bullying by 3 other pupils and this involved abusive online messages, this would show as 3 instances.
2. There is a marked increase in the total number of recorded incidents between 2020 and 2023, with a decrease in 2024. This may be explained by measures put in place from 2021 to address inconsistent approaches to dealing with and recording incidents which included: implementing a strengthened 'Preventing and Responding to Bullying and Prejudice' procedure; supplementary guidance on tackling racist incidents; and training for school Equality Co-ordinators.