



## Information Requests

Reference: 16860753

16 January 2025

Dear Requester

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Somerset Council.

#### **Your Request:**

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the funding provided for children attending unaccredited online schools. For the purposes of this request, "unaccredited online schools" refers to online education providers that have not been accredited under The Department for Education's Online Education Accreditation Scheme.

Specifically, I would like to request the following data:

The total number of children who have been provided funding to attend unaccredited online schools over the past five years (broken down by year, if possible).

The total amount of funding allocated for attendance at unaccredited online schools over the past five years (also broken down by year, if available).

If the requested information is already publicly available, I would appreciate it if you could provide direct links to the relevant resources.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to your response within the statutory 20 working days.

#### **Our Response:**

I have detailed below the information that we hold.

**am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the funding provided for children attending unaccredited online schools. For the purposes of this request, "unaccredited online schools" refers to online education providers that have not been accredited under The**

**Department for Education's Online Education Accreditation Scheme.**

According to published Government information on the following site, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/accreditation-for-online-education-providers/accreditation-for-online-education-providers> the accreditation scheme was launched in 2023 and opened to applications from providers that meet the qualifying criteria on at the end of March 2023. Data is therefore provided here from April 2023 (broken down by financial year) to reflect the duration of the scheme.

The figures below have been sourced from Somerset Council finance data, based on records of payments made or committed to providers for alternative provision. The data does not include any provision directly paid through and funded by schools (Somerset Council does not hold this data).

Education providers were included in this data if they were identified as primarily being an online education provider according to information on their website, but were excluded if they were found on the DfE's Get Information about Schools page/download <https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/Search?SelectedTab=Establishments> therefore indicating that were either accredited under the scheme as an online provider (000/#### code) or registered as an education provider with the DfE under a different category. 14 education providers fulfilled the criteria to be included in the analysis.

Specifically, I would like to request the following data:

The total number of children who have been provided funding to attend unaccredited online schools over the past five years (broken down by year, if possible).

	2023-2024 financial year	2024-25 financial year (as of 10/01/25)	2023-24 or 2024-25 (as of 10/01/25)
Number of distinct CYP	29	62	72 <i>This is not a total of the previous columns as some CYP were allocated funded for both financial years</i>

The total amount of funding allocated for attendance at unaccredited online schools over the past five years (also broken down by year, if available).

	2023-2024 financial year	2024-25 financial year
Sum of recorded actual and committed costs (as	£207,639.68	£409,829.46

**of 10/01/25)**

Please quote the reference number 16860753 in any future communications.

I will now close this request.

If you feel your request has not been answered in sufficient detail, or if you wish to clarify the information given, please contact me, and I will be happy to address the issues you raise.

Alternatively, if you are not satisfied with our response you may request an internal review. This is an independent investigation into the handling of your request, which is carried out by the Information Governance Team. The conclusions of this investigation, and if applicable, a fresh decision about the information to be provided, should be sent to you within twenty working days of receipt of the internal review request.

To request an Internal Review please respond to this letter detailing why you are not satisfied, and your request will be dealt with by the information governance team.

If you are not satisfied with the results of the internal review, you may then appeal directly to the Information Commissioner's Office with your complaint.

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Web address: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

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