



Reference: FOI2935

Request:

The Northern Powerhouse Partnership has led calls for government to properly recognise the challenges some of our schools in the north face and provide them with greater resources and support. Following disruptions to education earlier this year as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, these challenges are arguably greater than ever.

Prior to recent events however, we already had concerns about how some schools were doing little to tackle persistent absence among some pupils and/or were making excessive use of exclusions. In particular, we suspect that some academy chains may be “gaming the system” by using such measures, leaving other schools in its local area to pick up these pupils, in an attempt to improve their performance in a number of accountability measures.

I would therefore like to make a request for the following data:

* Absence and persistent absence data for each school in your local authority area for the most recent 3-year period (broken down by term if available).

This is publicly available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-pupil-absence>

* Exclusion data (both fixed term and permanent) for each school in your local authority area for the most recent 3-year period (broken down by term if available).

* This should include LA controlled schools and Academies where they provide such data

Please see attached. The request for termly exclusions data is not held in an extractable format. The data is not published in that breakdown and internal data coverage is too imprecise.