

Reference: FOI-1491

Request:

Please provide data regarding the number of challenges to books received by your library/libraries for each calendar between 2018 and 2022, plus so far in 2023.

For this request, a book challenge is defined as a formal complaint requesting that materials be removed from a library because of content or inappropriateness.

Specifically, please provide each of the following for each year if available:

- a. The number of challenges received
- b. The title and author of the books challenged
- c. The reason (if any) provided for the challenge
- d. The action taken in response to the challenge

Response:

2018

- a. The number of challenges received: 1
- b. The title and author of the books challenged: Eric Summers, Erotic Stories
- c. The reason (if any) provided for the challenge: The book was sexually graphic.
- d. The action taken in response to the challenge: Book was reviewed but not removed.

2019

- a. The number of challenges received: 0

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2020

- a. The number of challenges received: 0

2021

- a. The number of challenges received: 0

2022

- a. The number of challenges received: 1
- b. The title and author of the books challenged: Melric the Clown
- c. The reason (if any) provided for the challenge: The villain was stereotypically Asian while other characters were Caucasian.
- d. The action taken in response to the challenge: Book was assessed by the children's librarian and withdrawn from stock.

2023

- a. The number of challenges received: 2
- b. The title and author of the books challenged:
 - i. TJ Klune, Wolfsong
 - ii. Harry Woodgate, Grandad's Pride
- c. The reason (if any) provided for the challenge:
 - i. Content was sexually graphic.
 - ii. Complainant had seen an article suggesting the book appeared to show a man in bondage style dress.
- d. The action taken in response to the challenge:
 - i. Book was recategorised as LGBTQ+
 - ii. The complainant was shown the book and borrowed it.

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