



Information Commissioner's Office
Promoting public access to official information
and protecting your personal information

Press Release

10 June 2008

South Wales authorities right not to disclose school exclusions

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has upheld decisions made by three local authorities across South Wales that details relating to the number of exclusions from named schools in the region should not be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act.

The ruling by the ICO follows a request to Cardiff County Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council and Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council for the number of pupils excluded from named schools following drug finds during 2004/05 and 2005/06.

The requester was provided with the number of exclusions as a result of drug finds across the boroughs. However, in all cases the local authorities argued that disclosing the number of exclusions in relation to particular named schools would breach the Data Protection Act because the information could be used to identify a living individual.

The ICO agrees with the authorities' views that the disclosure of the personal information about an identifiable young person who has been excluded from school would be unfair and would therefore be in breach of the Data Protection Act.

To view copies of the decision notices, visit the [Decision notice section](#) of the ICO website.

ENDS

If you need more information, please contact the Information Commissioner's press office on 020 7025 7580.

Notes to Editors

1. The Information Commissioner promotes public access to official information and protects personal information. The ICO is an independent body with specific responsibilities set out in the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003.
2. The Decision Notice reference numbers for these cases are: FS50162459, FS50133250 and FS50130239
3. For more information about the Information Commissioner's Office subscribe to our e-newsletter at www.ico.gov.uk
4. This press release is available in Welsh on the ICO's website