

QUESTION NO 30

**By Councillor Rust for answer by the
Convener of the Education, Children
and Families Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 8 February 2024**

According to FOI reference 39848, at the end of October 2022, the council's M365 Learning and Teaching system in schools, held Global Address List directory entries for:

- 55,946 children at council primary and secondary schools
- 6,853 staff
- 626 contractors working within schools/setting
- 317 teachers in training
- An unknown number of council staff from other departments with access to support and contribute to Education services
- An unknown number of staff from external suppliers like CGI

With the exception of some very young children who had been added without their knowledge and not provided with a login, everyone in the system had full visibility of the name, location and some other personal data of everyone else in the Global Address List, the means to contact them from their council address, the ability to contact them from an external email address, and the ability to see if any individual child was online and using the system at any given time.

Question (1) At the end of October 2022, did any of the staff with access to this system not have a full and current Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme membership and if so, how many?

Answer (1)

Question (2) How many staff in each category were still in the system on 1 January 2024 with digital access to the majority of children in council schools?

Answer (2)

Question (3) Do any of those staff not have a full and current PVG Scheme membership, and if so, how many?

Answer (3)

Question (4) In recent years, has any staff member ever raised a concern to a Headteacher or council officer that they had unnecessary visibility of every child in Edinburgh?

Answer (4)

Question (5) In October 2022, roughly 50,000 children had access to the full directory from home when doing homework – some had this for years. Can the council confirm that there were no immediate family members with convictions for sexual or violent offences who could have had clear visibility of the easily searchable Edinburgh-wide directory and distribution lists for staff and children when legitimately assisting their children with homework?

Answer (5)