



Baroness Barran

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System and Student Finance
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Earl of Clancarty
House of Lords,
Houses of Parliament,
Parliament Square,
London,
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22 December 2022

Dear Nicholas,

Further to the Oral Parliamentary Question tabled by Baroness Wilcox of Newport, on behalf of Baroness Chapman of Darlington on 'Children's Private Information: Data Protection Law', I am writing to you regarding your question relating to how much information the Home Office is allowed to access from DfE for immigration purposes. I would like to thank you for your question and give you a full answer on this issue.

As part of DfE's commitment to transparency, we publish quarterly [details of all organisations with whom we have shared personal data](#). This includes a monthly breakdown of the volume of data shares with the Home Office. The data sharing agreement between Home Office and DfE restricts the number of records which can be requested by Home Office to no more than 300 in any given month.

For the 12 months from October 2021 to September 2022 DfE sent 45 records to Home Office, compared with 168 records during the same period the previous year.

The purpose of the data sharing between DfE and the Home Office is to establish if DfE hold information that will support the Home Office in meeting their strategic aims to:

- Safeguard and promote the welfare of any child, and to reduce harm resulting in abuse from immigration; or
- Re-establish contact with children and families the Home Office has lost contact with and trace immigration offenders.

Where Home Office have clear evidence that a child may be at risk of criminal activity, limited data including a pupils address and school details may be requested from DfE. It is right that we share this data if it helps keep a child safe from harm or prevent/disrupt a crime.

I would also like to highlight that we have been working with the British Council to provide “Warm Welcome Grants” to individuals with links to Afghanistan to enable to study at a higher education level in the UK. In May 2022, a previous Secretary of State published a letter ([SoS integration letter \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)) outlining our commitment to supporting children from Ukraine, highlighting our “Holiday and Food” programme. Participation in this programme is possible because information about the children who would benefit is shared between schools and local authorities.

I hope these further details have been useful and I will place a copy in the House libraries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diana Barran', written in a cursive style.

BARONESS BARRAN

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE