

12 March 2024

## **Case Reference IC-291609-Z0N7**

### **Your request**

You asked us for the following:

*"1. How many self-reported data breaches in Local Authorities in England were notified to the ICO during the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023.*

*2. How many not self-reported (e.g. by members of the public) data breaches in Local Authorities in England were notified to the ICO during the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023.*

*3. How many self-reported data breaches by Local Authority Education Departments in England were notified to the ICO during the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023.*

*4. How many not self-reported (e.g. by members of the public) data breaches by Local Authority Education Departments in England were notified to the ICO during the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023."*

Where your questions satisfy the criteria of a valid information request, we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

### **Our response**

Firstly a word on how we have interpreted your request. We understand that by data breaches "not self-reported (e.g. by members of the public)" you mean 'complaints' brought to the ICO by data subjects. This is because personal data breaches are, by definition, reported by data controllers. When an individual feels that an organisation has breached data protection legislation, we classify their contact with the ICO as a 'complaint'.

We should also clarify that we do not hold information relating to breaches reported to the ICO by "Local Authority Education Departments". For the purposes of reporting potential data breaches, the closest sector category of data controllers is either classified as 'Local Government' or 'Maintained Schools.'

That said, please see the below information relating to the period January to December 2023:

<b>Potential Personal Data Breaches Reported to the ICO</b>		
	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Count</b>
1	Local Government	1108
3	Maintained Schools	360
<b>Data Protection Complaints Brought to the ICO</b>		
	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Count</b>
2	Local Government	3248
4	Maintained Schools	297

This concludes our response.

We hope you find this information helpful.