

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

### **You asked:**

**In September, Schools Minister Nick Gibb said "We recognise that it is not always easy for home-educated children to find suitable exam centres. While it is rightly a matter for an individual school or college as to whether to provide facilities for home-educated children to sit their exams, we encourage them to do so; and we provide training, advice and support to exam officers accordingly"**

<http://www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2011-09-15a.71415.h&s=home+education+speaker:10225#g71415.r0>

**Could you tell me what work the Council does to encourage and support local schools to provide facilities for home educated children to sit exams.**

The Council supports schools in providing a wide ranging curriculum and associated opportunities for formal qualifications. It is left to schools, partners and stakeholders to decide if the school wishes to act as an examination centre for children that are not registered with the school.

**Does the Council keep a list of local schools which allow private candidates to sit exams?**

The Council has a list of exam centres published on its website:  
<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council-services/education-lifelong-learning/about-us/lea-services/welfare-service/home-education/key-stage-four-and-beyond/>

These are not local schools. The website provides information on awarding bodies and contacts so that families can get in touch with these bodies to find alternative exam centres. The experience of Leicester City Council is that some awarding bodies do not provide specific information about schools willing to accept private candidates only a list of schools offering their examinations; and where such specific information is provided it is out of date – that is, the Leicester schools do not offer places for private candidates. Hence, the information provided on the website about access to examinations is circumspect – we list centres that we have confirmed (in July 2011) are willing to take private candidates and recommend that families contact the exam centre will before the course is due to begin so that any problems are identified and resolved.

**If so, does the Council make this list available to home educating families on request?**

[See above](#)

**How often is the list reviewed and updated?**

The information was reviewed and presented in July 2011. We would anticipate review and confirmation on an annual cycle unless we become aware of a specific change that would need immediate update (i.e. a new exam centre opening in Leicester).

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use. Please be aware that any commercial or other use, for example publication, sale, or redistribution may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as amended unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission.

Not all the information that is supplied which is covered by copyright will be the Council's copyright, for example it may be the copyright of a government department or another Council. You should seek either the Council's consent or their consent as appropriate. The Council is willing to advise you of any such potential issues on request. In order to make a request to re-use the information please contact the Head of Information Governance using the details below.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

**Head of Information Governance**  
**Information and Support**  
**Leicester City Council**  
**FREEPOST (LE985/33)**  
**New Walk Centre**  
**LEICESTER LE1 6ZG**  
e-mail: [FOIA@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:FOIA@leicester.gov.uk)

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

**Information Commissioner's Office**  
**Wycliffe House**  
**Water Lane**  
**Wilmslow SK9 5AF**  
**Telephone: 01625 545 700**  
[www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to Head of Information Governance before contacting the Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Wyeth', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Lynn Wyeth**  
**Head of Information Governance**