

## DE/2026-076 – Freedom of Information Request

### Request:

I am requesting information relating to allergy safety in schools and Benedict's Law. Please provide the following information for the period **1 January 2023 to present**.

### Meetings

1. The number of **internal meetings** held within the Department of Education at which allergy safety in schools, anaphylaxis, school allergy policies, adrenaline auto-injectors, medical conditions relating to allergy, or Benedict's Law were discussed.

Please provide this broken down by calendar year:

- 2023
- 2024
- 2025
- 2026 to date

2. The number of **external meetings** attended or hosted by the Department of Education relating to the same subjects, including meetings with external stakeholders, organisations, campaign groups, charities, the Education Authority, schools, health bodies or other government departments.

Please provide this broken down by calendar year:

- 2023
- 2024
- 2025
- 2026 to date

3. For each external meeting identified, please provide:

- date of meeting
- organisations represented
- general purpose / subject matter
- whether minutes or notes were taken

(There is no need to provide personal names below senior official level.)

### Communications with Department of Health

4. The total number of communications between the Department of Education and the Department of Health relating to allergy safety in schools, anaphylaxis, adrenaline auto-injectors in schools, school allergy policies, staff training, medical conditions guidance, or Benedict's Law.

Please include, where held:

- emails
- letters
- formal correspondence
- briefing notes
- meeting invitations

- recorded calls / notes of calls

Please provide totals broken down by calendar year:

- 2023
- 2024
- 2025
- 2026 to date

## **Search Terms**

For the avoidance of doubt, relevant searches may include:

- allergy
- allergies
- anaphylaxis
- adrenaline auto-injector
- AAI
- epipen
- spare pens
- medical needs
- Benedict's Law
- Benedict Blythe Foundation

## **Department Response:**

Thank you for your request for information relating to relating to allergy safety in schools and Benedict's Law for the period 1 January 2023 to present. The request was received on 27 April 2026.

Your request relates to records falling within scope of the subject areas set out in your request: allergy, allergies, anaphylaxis, adrenaline auto-injector(s), AAI, epipen, spare pens, medical needs, Benedict's Law, Benedict Blythe Foundation, school allergy policies, medical conditions relating to allergy, staff training and medical conditions guidance.

For clarity:

- "Internal meetings" has been taken to mean meetings held **within the Department of Education (DE)** at which the specified topics were discussed.
- "External meetings" has been taken to mean meetings **involving external organisations or stakeholders** relating to the specified topics.
- "Communications" with the Department of Health has been taken to mean **recorded exchanges held by DE with the Department of Health (DoH) and its partner organisations (e.g. Public Health Agency (PHA) and Health and Social Care Trusts (HSCT)**, counted and aggregated by year relating to the specified topics.

### **1. Internal meetings**

In respect of **section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000**, following a search of the Department's records, I can confirm that **no recorded information is held** for this element of your request. Internal meetings were held to discuss medication guidance but

no information is held on whether those meetings discussed the topics that you have asked about.

- **External meetings**

In respect of **section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000**, following a search of the Department's records the following information has been identified:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of external meetings identified</b>
2023	<b>Three</b>
2024	<b>Two</b>
2025	<b>Four</b>
2026 (to date)	<b>Zero</b>

- **External meetings – additional details**

In respect of **section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000**, following a search of the Department's records the following information has been identified:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Organisations represented</b>	<b>General purpose/ subject matter</b>	<b>Minutes/ notes held (Y/N)</b>
2023	19/1/2023	DE, Education Authority (EA), PHA	Review of supporting Children and Young People with healthcare needs in educational settings – meeting of training sub-group	Y <i>Draft meeting note</i>
	19/6/2023	DE, DOH, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), EA, Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA), Belfast HSCT, PHA, Food Standards Agency (FSA), Safefood	Food in Schools Forum	Y
	13/12/2023	DE, DOH, DAERA, EA, CCEA, BHSCT, PHA, FSA, Safefood	Food in Schools Forum	Y

2024	11/6/2024	Helen Blythe (Benedict Blythe Foundation), DE	Allergies in Schools	N
	20/6/2024	DE, DOH, DAERA, EA, CCEA, BHSCT, PHA, FSA, Saferfood	Food in Schools Forum	Y
2025	11/3/2025	FoodAllergy NI	Impact of Food Allergies on children's access to educational opportunities	Y
	7/5/2025	Benedict Blythe Foundation, DE	Allergies in Schools	N
	15/5/2025	DE, DoH, EA, PHA	Allergy Management in Schools	Y Draft meeting note
	31/6/2025	Tracey Dunn, Anaphylaxis UK. DE	Anaphylaxis	N

You did not ask for copies of minutes/ meeting notes in your request. Should you wish to receive these please issue a request which the Department will consider.

#### 4. Communications with the Department of Health (and partner organisations)

In respect of **section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000**, following a search of the Department's records the following information has been identified:

Year	Total number of communications
2023	<b>Eight</b>
2024	<b>One</b>
2025	<b>Zero</b>
2026 (to date)	<b>Five</b>

The Department has records of communications with the Department of Health (and partner organisations) relating to medication guidance and staff training more broadly which do not specifically fit the wording of the request.