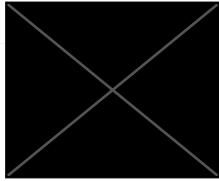




Isle of Man
Government
Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Department of Education Sport and Culture

Rheynn Ynsee, Spoyrt as Cultoor



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Our ref: 5198652

27 January 2026

Dear Mr Turton

We write further to your request, received 30 December 2025, which states:

"Following on from Tynwald written question W-202501-1957

How many students were choosing a) school meals and b) packed lunches at the start of

i) November 2025 ii) December 2025"

Our response to your request is as follows:

Please find enclosed: School Meals Nov/Dec 2025

By way of advice and assistance the attached table shows approximate lunch and packed lunch numbers for the start of November and December 2025 for the primary school meals service.

Primary schools log packed lunch numbers in a variety of ways. For example, some schools deduct the number of school lunches from the number of children in attendance at school on a given day. Other schools record the number opting for a packed lunch. Therefore, the packed lunch figures are approximate and do not account for any other circumstances, for example, going home for lunch or children that have left school for appointments and team sports events.

The number of school lunches ordered daily will fluctuate in line with the individual school policy on change notice periods. Most schools allow children to change from school lunch to packed lunch without any notice. In addition, the use of ParentPay varies across schools and therefore school meals taken may not have been logged on the reports used to extract this data. Work is ongoing to improve accuracy. Furthermore, school meal figures fluctuate throughout a school year, for a variety of reasons, for example:

- Authorised and unauthorised school absences e.g. sickness and appointments.
- Holidays; often impacting attendance at the start and end of school terms.
- Weather changes resulting in increases and decreases in demand for each meal type.

- End of term, end of year and seasonal events such as Christmas lunch.
- Some school lunches served may not be recorded on ParentPay such as lunches provided for children that do not have a ParentPay account or do not have funds on their account.

Please quote the reference number 5198652 in any future communications.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your freedom of information request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by completing a complaint form and submitting it electronically or by delivery/post.

An electronic version of our complaint form can be found by going to our website at <https://services.gov.im/freedom-of-information/Review> . If you would like a paper version of our complaint form to be sent to you by post, please contact me and I will be happy to arrange for this. Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made as soon as practicable. We will respond as soon as the review has been concluded.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner for a decision on;

1. Whether we have responded to your request for information in accordance with Part 2 of the Freedom of Information Act 2015; or
2. Whether we are justified in refusing to give you the information requested.

In response to an application for review, the Information Commissioner may, at any time, attempt to resolve a matter by negotiation, conciliation, mediation or another form of alternative dispute resolution and will have regard to any outcome of this in making any subsequent decision.

More detailed information on your right to a review can be found on the Information Commissioner's website at www.inforights.im.

Should you have any queries concerning this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Further information about freedom of information requests can be found at www.gov.im/foi.

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Officer