

14 June 2019  
Our ref: 5361828

Thank you for your request received on 3 June 2019, for the following information:

**I would like to request the following data for the financial year 2017/18. (Please note I have previously asked for similar data for 2016/17)**

**a) The total cost to your council of transporting children to schools outside your local authority in the financial year 2017/18.**

**b) How much of a) was for children with Special Educational Needs?**

**c) without disclosing names or identities of individual pupils, I'd like the following information for the FIVE pupils with SEN that had the longest journeys:**

**i) how long, in miles or kilometres, was their journey?**

**ii) how many times did they make the trip during the financial year?**

**iii) what was the total cost of transporting them during the financial year?**

**Ideally, the answer to c) would be the format:**

**Child A 105km 20 £10,500**

**Child B 87km 6 £4,300**

**Child C 86km 25 £7,600**

**...for up to five children.**

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

## **Response**

**a) The total cost to your council of transporting children to schools outside your local authority in the financial year 2017/18.**

£800,000

**b) How much of a) was for children with Special Educational Needs?**

As above

**c) without disclosing names or identities of individual pupils, I'd like the following information for the FIVE pupils with SEN that had the longest journeys:**

**i) how long, in miles or kilometres, was their journey?**

**ii) how many times did they make the trip during the financial year?**

**iii) what was the total cost of transporting them during the financial year?**

***Ideally, the answer to c) would be the format:***

***Child A    105km    20    £10,500***

***Child B    87km    6    £4,300***

***Child C    86km    25    £7,600***

***...for up to five children.***

See Refusal Notice below

## **Refusal Notice**

We are refusing part of your request under section 12 because we estimate that compliance with your request will exceed the "appropriate limit" under section 12. The appropriate limit is £450 which is equivalent to 18 hours at £25 per hour. The per hour figure is set by Regulations rather than actual salary paid to any officers handling requests. The appropriate limit includes the time it will take the council to discover if it holds the information requested, to locate it, extract it and collate it as well as putting it into any particular format requested by the requester. We have calculated that it will take approx 23 hours to comply with your request. Our calculation is as follows:

Please note that this information is not collected in the format requested. In order to provide this information manual searching and cross checking would have to be undertaken, exceeding the 18-hour time limit given to answer requests.

Please see the calculation and refusal notice below:

92 SEN children transported by 169 routes. Each SEN file will take 15 minutes to retrieve, check for route distance (i), amount of times journey was made (ii), and calculate the cost to the council (iii). Therefore:

92 records x 15 minutes = 1380 minutes (23 hours)

## **Further information**

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

## **Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing**

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

**For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.**

### **Your rights**

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: [foi@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:foi@barnet.gov.uk). Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) The London Borough of Barnet, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London, N11 1NP

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)). There is no charge for making an appeal.