



Assurance Group  
London Borough of Barnet,  
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,  
London NW9 4EW  
1 August 2019  
Our ref: 5437231

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

**I wish to make a series of separate requests under the Freedom of Information Act. For convenience, I am including them in the same email. Please treat each as a separate request under the terms of the Act, although please do respond in one correspondence if convenient. The requests are as follows: (see attached as to long to go on description).**

**I wish to make a series of separate requests under the Freedom of Information Act. For convenience, I am including them in the same email. Please treat each as a separate request under the terms of the Act, although please do respond in one correspondence if convenient. The requests are as follows:**

**Request 1:**

- **Please state (a) the total public health budget allocated (including for GP and pharmacist services) by your local authority for all sexual and reproductive health services, (b) budget allocated to general practice for all sexual and reproductive health services, (c) budget allocated to specialist community sexual and reproductive health service providers (including integrated sexual health providers) for all sexual and reproductive health services, and (d) budget allocated out of area for all sexual and reproductive health services in:**
  - **(i) the financial year 2015/16**
  - **(ii) the financial year 2016/17**
  - **(iii) the financial year 2017/18**
  - **(iv) the financial year 2018/19; and**
  - **(v) plans for the financial year 2019/20 (please give combined budget if within a block contract)**

**Request 2:**

- Please provide the number of sites commissioned by your local authority, or a provider subcontracted by your local authority, to deliver contraceptive services in (a) the financial year 2015/16, (b) the financial year 2016/17, (c) the financial year 2017/18, (d) the financial year 2018/19 and (e) plans for the financial year 2019/20.
  - If your organisation has taken a decision to reduce the number of sites, please (i) provide the reason why this decision was taken, (ii) confirm or deny whether an impact assessment was undertaken and (iii) if confirm, share the impact assessment

**Request 3:**

- Please provide the total volume of activity that your organisation has contracted for the fitting and removal of LARC methods of contraception (excluding injection) in your area in (a) sexual and reproductive health services (excluding general practice) and (b) GP practices in:
  - (i) the financial year 2015/16
  - (ii) the financial year 2016/17
  - (iii) the financial year 2017/18
  - (iv) the financial year 2018/19
  - (v) plans for the financial year 2019/20

**Request 4:**

- Please confirm or deny whether the local authority stipulates and/or monitors waiting time requirements in contracts with (a) general practice and (b) sexual and reproductive health services for (i) sexual health appointments, (ii) contraception appointments and (iii) appointments for fitting LARC.
  - If confirm, for each please release corresponding data on a) average waiting times and b) the longest waiting time in the most recent year for which figures are available

**Request 5:**

- Please provide information on (a) the number of contracts to deliver sexual and reproductive health services, including the delivery of contraceptive services, that have been terminated earlier than planned and (b) the reasons for each withdrawal or early termination of contract in:
  - (i) the financial year 2015/16
  - (ii) the financial year 2016/17
  - (iii) the financial year 2017/18

- (iv) the financial year 2018/19

**Request 6:**

- Please confirm or deny whether the local authority collects data on the number of complaints received relating to the provision of contraceptive services in (a) general practice and (b) community and integrated sexual health providers
  - If confirm, please provide information on the number of complaints received relating to the provision of contraceptive services in (a) general practice and (b) sexual and reproductive health services in the financial years (i) 2016/17, (ii) 2017/18 and (iii) 2018/19
  - If deny, please provide information on who does collect this data for your area

**Request 7:**

- Please provide information on the number of community outreach sites (targeting groups or populations who are not effectively reached by traditional health services) commissioned by the local authority to deliver (a) sexual and reproductive health services, (b) contraceptive services and (c) LARC fittings in:
  - (i) the financial year 2015/16
  - (ii) the financial year 2016/17
  - (iii) the financial year 2017/18
  - (iv) the financial year 2018/19
  - (v) plans for the financial year 2019/20

**Request 8:**

- Please confirm or deny whether the local authority commissions standalone sites directed towards young people aged 25 or younger providing sexual and reproductive health services, including the delivery of contraceptive services
  - If confirm, please provide information on (a) any age restrictions for accessing these services, (b) the number of standalone services directed towards young people providing sexual health services and (c) the number of standalone services directed towards young people providing contraceptive services commissioned by the local authority (i) in the financial year 2017/18, (ii) in the financial year 2018/19, and (iii) plans for the financial year 2019/20

**Request 9:**

- Please provide information on the number of conceptions resulting in live birth in (a) looked after children aged 19 or younger, (b) care leavers aged 19 or younger and (c) children who are home educated in:
  - (i) the financial year 2015/16
  - (ii) the financial year 2016/17
  - (iii) the financial year 2017/18
  - (iv) the financial year 2018/19

#### **Request 10:**

- Please confirm or deny whether the local authority has a contract in place to deliver digital services for (a) sexual and reproductive health support (b) contraceptive provision and (c) sexually transmitted infection testing
  - ☐ If confirm, please state who is commissioned to provide these services
  - ☐ If deny, please state whether the local authority has plans to commission such services in the future

#### ***Public interest arguments***

- ☐ ***There is a clear public interest for disclosure of this information, in that disclosure will:***
  - Further the understanding of and participation in the public debate of issues of the day, and will allow a more informed debate of issues under consideration by public bodies
  - Promote accountability and transparency by public authorities for decisions taken by them
  - Allow individuals to understand decisions made by public authorities affecting their lives

#### **Response**

We are refusing 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.

The 10 requests are linked and here is an overarching theme and common thread running between the requests in terms of the nature of the information that has been requested. Each question is also multi layered. Aggregated as a single request the total amount of time

required exceeds the statutory requirement.

We have calculated that it will take approx 25 hours to comply with your request. Our calculation is as follows:

10 complex questions at an estimated average 2.5 hours per question = 25 hours minimum.

### **Advice and Assistance**

You will need to reduce the scope of this request and the number of questions. For example in Question 1 you may wish to limit the question to only ask for the budgetary allocation on the service. Questions 7-10 could be compressed to one. The remaining questions should be reduced in scope and simplified and combined where possible.

You may also wish to look at recent responses to FOI requests on Sexual Health in our disclosure log at:

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/foi-requests>

### **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) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

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.

