



13 November 2019

Our ref: 5726580

Thank you for your request received on 17 October 2019, for the following information:

This Freedom of Information request is being sent out to all top tier local authorities.

- 1. For each academic year since 2009/2010, how many children aged 5-16 in Barnet have received free statutory home to school transport? And, of these, how many children have received this provision on the eligibility of SEND? Please provide total figures for each academic year including the current academic year.**
- 2. Do you routinely record educational absences due to a lack of home to school transport provision for children aged 5-16 eligible for this provision on the basis of SEND? If so, please provide the data on this for each academic year since 2009/2010 including the current year to date.**
- 3. For each academic year since 2009/2010, how much funding has Barnet spent providing home to school transport for children aged 5-16 eligible on the basis of SEND? Please provide total figures for each academic year.**
- 4. For each academic year since 2009/2010, how many children, aged 5-16, requiring specialist support from a chaperone on their home to school journey have received this support? Please give your answer as a percentage of total children eligible for chaperone support on the basis of SEND.**
- 5. What quality assurance processes do you have in place to ensure that home to school transport provision, including but not limited to training of the chaperone and driver, type of vehicle, length of journey and needs of other children on board, for children aged 5-16 on the basis of SEND is appropriate to meet each individual child's needs?**
- 6. What is your planning process, including timescales, for ensuring the provision of home to school transport for children aged 5-16 eligible on the basis of SEND, and what data sources do you use to support this process?**

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

Response

- 1. For each academic year since 2009/2010, how many children aged 5-16 in Barnet have received free statutory home to school transport?**

Passenger Numbers - Non-SEN

2011-12

2012-13

2013-14

2014-15

2015-16

2016-17

2017-18

2018

And, of these, how many children have received this provision on the eligibility of SEND? Please provide total figures for each academic year including the current academic year.

Please see response to Question 3.

2. Do you routinely record educational absences due to a lack of home to school transport provision for children aged 5-16 eligible for this provision on the basis of SEND?

No

If so, please provide the data on this for each academic year since 2009/2010 including the current year to date.

N/A

3. For each academic year since 2009/2010, how much funding has Barnet spent providing home to school transport for children aged 5-16 eligible on the basis of SEND? Please provide total figures for each academic year.

Please note we do not hold information for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Passenger Numbers	899	875	880	872	861	727
Total cost	£5,116,424.05	£5,049,404.33	£5,053,546.13	£5,311,092.00	£5,230,986.00 *	

*Since 2016-17 the SEN transport budget has been managed by Cambridge Education as part of a contract to manage Barnet's Education and Skills service

4. For each academic year since 2009/2010, how many children, aged 5-16, requiring specialist support from a chaperone on their home to school journey have received this support? Please give your answer as a percentage of total children eligible for chaperone support on the basis of SEND.

We undertake a risk assessment on each child with an EHCP requiring SEN transport and take account of all professional advice received, in order to determine whether a Passenger Assistant is required. In 100% of cases where we have assessed that a Passenger Assistant is required, the transport provided includes a Passenger Assistant.

Refusal Notice

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.

Under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, the exact information (the number requiring a Passenger Assistant) that you asked for cannot be provided within the statutory 18 hour limit due to the time it would take to compile the data. We would need to read every child's case notes for all years requested. For one year (2011-12) this would involve checking 899 records, we estimate each record will take 10 minutes to source and check. Therefore $899 \times 10 = 8990$ minutes (149 hours) We have therefore decided to refuse this part of your request below. There is no easy way to narrow down your request so we are unable to offer further advice and assistance.

5. What quality assurance processes do you have in place to ensure that home to school transport provision, including but not limited to training of the chaperone and driver, type of vehicle, length of journey and needs of other children on board, for children aged 5-16 on the basis of SEND is appropriate to meet each individual child's needs?

Each request is assessed on a case by case basis at a joint panel meeting with the SEN team. The travel solution offered is dependent on the needs of the young person, resources available, risk assessments and other contributing factors.

The transport team have a duty to utilise public funds efficiently to provide solutions that are cost effective and best value for money, whilst meeting the Local Authority's statutory duties.

Our quality of assurance includes:

- Assessing contractors to identify if they meet the requirements to join the Local Authority's framework
- Tendering available opportunities, using various strategies to find cost effective solutions
- Awarding contracts based on the results of the tendering processes and the requirements for each case
- Managing existing contracts and monitoring that contractual obligations are met

6. What is your planning process, including timescales, for ensuring the provision of home to school transport for children aged 5-16 eligible on the basis of SEND, and what data sources do you use to support this process?

We work closely with the SEN team and, eligibility has been approved, we provide transport within two weeks (based on available resources)

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

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. 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). There is no charge for making an appeal.