

29 January 2020

Our ref: 6000764

Thank you for your request received on 23 January 2020, for the following information:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

1. How much did you spend on taxis and other forms of private transport in 2019 to get students to and from Alternative Provision placements?

2. What's the furthest distance a looked after child in your care has had to travel to reach a private tutor hired by your Virtual School to provide academic support

Please provide the information in the form of a Word document or Excel spreadsheet.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request. If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined, please provide further advice and assistance.

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

Response

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

1. How much did you spend on taxis and other forms of private transport in 2019 to get students to and from Alternative Provision placements?

In respect of your recent enquiry for information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, the information that you asked for cannot be provided within the statutory 18 hour limit because we do not hold this data as a category on our management system. We would need to read every child's Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).

See Refusal Notice below

2. What's the furthest distance a looked after child in your care has had to travel to reach a private tutor hired by your Virtual School to provide academic support?

N/A – children do not have to travel to reach private tutors as tutors travel to them

Refusal Notice

Section 12 of FOIA states that the council does not have to comply with a request for information if the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit of £450 calculated at £25 per hour with a limit of 18 hours. The appropriate limit relates strictly to the process of determining whether the information is held; locating, retrieving and extracting the information, or a document containing it.

We would have to read 700 children's files. It would take approximately 10 minutes to review each case. 700 files x 10 minutes = 7000 minutes (117 hours). We have therefore decided to refuse your request, please see Refusal notice (Section 12) below.

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.