

26 February 2020

Our ref: 6080688

Thank you for your request received on 13 February 2020, for the following information:

I am writing to request answers to the following questions. This is a FOI request and should be responded to within 20 working days with reference to the FOI Act.

1. Please provide details of the total number and types of restrictive interventions used by schools maintained in your authority in the years 2017-2019.

For the avoidance of doubt, this request includes seclusion, segregation and deprivation of liberty, as well as all forms of restraint.

Please provide the data broken down by school; and by year and month if possible.

If you cannot break the data down specifically by school, then please justify why this is the case and break it down by type of school (e.g. special school, etc).

2. Please provide the names of any companies or other bodies which have provided training in restrictive interventions (including training that includes guidance on how to carry out any kind of physical intervention), in schools maintained in your authority from 2017-2019. Please note that some training providers offer this training within packages of 'positive behaviour handling/support'.

Please break the data down by school; and by year, and month if possible. If you cannot break the data down specifically by school, then please justify why this is the case and break it down by type of school (e.g. special school, etc).

3. Please say how much your authority has spent on such training.

4. Please provide the number of injuries caused during restrictive interventions in schools maintained in your authority from 2017-2019.

Please break the data down by school; and by year, and month if possible.

If you cannot break the data down specifically by school, then please justify why this is the case and break it down by type of school (e.g. special school, etc).

5. Please provide the number of formal complaints made by parents about restrictive interventions to you about schools maintained in your authority 2017-2019. Please break the data down by school; and by year, and month if possible.

If you cannot break the data down specifically by school, then please justify why this is the case and break it down by type of school (e.g. special school, etc).

6. Please provide any and all formal complaints (i.e. the documents themselves) made by parents about restrictive interventions about schools maintained in your authority in 2017-2019. These could be in whatever format the complaints are submitted to the school/authority, whether in a letter, email or specialised format such as a form.

Although such complaints may include personal information, they are still disclosable under FOI because they are information recorded by the authority. I understand that you may make redactions to protect personal information but I ask that you redact only exempted information and justify the use of those exemptions.

I also kindly remind you that the time taken for redactions does not usually contribute towards the cost cap under FOI.

7. Please give the number of Reasonable Use of Force reports made in schools maintained in your

authority from 2017-2019. For the avoidance of doubt, this refers to reports written by staff around use of force incidents. The institutions within your authority may use a different name to describe them. Please break the data down by school; and by year, and month if possible.

8. Please provide the Reasonable Use of Force reports (i.e. the documents themselves) made in schools maintained in your authority from 2017-2019.

9. Please provide your authority's policy on the use of restrictive interventions. If you do not have one, please explain why.

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

Response

I am writing to inform you that we have searched our records and although we hold some of the information requested, some is not held by London Borough of Barnet because Enter the reason why the information requested is not held

We have provided answers to your request below showing where we do not hold the information requested.

1) Please provide details of the total number and types of restrictive interventions used by schools maintained in your authority in the years 2017-2019.

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If you cannot break the data down specifically by school, then please justify why this is the case and break it down by type of school (e.g. special school, etc).

We do not hold this information. Please note you will have to contact individual schools.

Schools (including academies) are considered under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to be public authorities in their own rights, and are subject to the FOIA in the same way as the council (albeit with different timescales to meet). It is therefore correct that the council does not hold this information, and that individual schools would need to be contacted.

Please see the link below:

https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/directories/Directories.html?_pecid=373ac375-9115-4d18-8a58-ce6098691e0a&directoryId=54e3852a84ae7c28725849d1&list=true_

2) Please provide the names of any companies or other bodies which have provided training in restrictive interventions (including training that includes guidance on how to carry out any kind of physical intervention), in schools maintained in your authority from 2017-2019. Please note that some training providers offer this training within packages of "positive behaviour handling/support".

Please break the data down by school; and by year, and month if possible. If you cannot break the data down specifically by school, then please justify why this is the case and break it down by type of school (e.g. special school, etc).

Team Teach, Training in Positive Handling, is available to all schools as part of our Traded Service.

We would not know other bodies that have carried out training in schools. This information will only be held by schools.

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3) Please say how much your authority has spent on such training.

This training is provided as part of our Traded Service to Schools so the LA does not incur a cost.

4) Please provide the number of injuries caused during restrictive interventions in schools maintained in your authority from 2017-2019. Please break the data down by school; and by year, and month if possible.

If you cannot break the data down specifically by school, then please justify why this is the case and break it down by type of school (e.g. special school, etc).

Schools record incidents of physical restraint internally, according to their individual policy. Generally, where physical restraint is included as part of a young person's behaviour management plan, incidents would be logged but not recorded in detail. A more detailed record would be expected where an incident has occurred and physical intervention has been necessary, which is not included in any plan. This record would include recording any injuries to staff or pupils. Records are retained by the schools.

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We do not process complaints about schools as stated in our Corporate Complaints Policy:

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/your-council/contact-council/complaints>

School complaints are processed within the schools internal complaints procedures, therefore you will need to contact individual schools for this information.

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9) Please provide your authority's policy on the use of restrictive interventions. If you do not have one, please explain why.

There is no requirement to have one.

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.