

12 August 2020  
Our ref: 6472972

Thank you for your request received on 31 July 2020, for the following information:

- 1. For the academic year just ended, how many pupils received free home to school transport?**
- 2. What was the total cost to the local authority of this provision? If possible please break this down by contracts for commercial buses/coaches, and passes for children to travel on public services.**
- 3. How many children received concessionary/spare/vacant seat places, and if possible how much money was received for these?**
- 4. What is the current estimate for how many pupils will receive free home to school transport for the coming academic year and the current estimate of the cost to the authority?**
- 5. Has the authority allowed applications for concessionary/spare/vacant seat places, revised numbers or told parents that there may not be capacity this year because of coronavirus?**
- 6. Is the authority doing anything else to reduce demand for school buses, such as offering to reimburse parents for mileage expenses if they drive their children to school, or recruiting minicabs etc? If so please provide details.**

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

## **Response**

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide full answers to each of the following questions about school transport arrangements in your area:

***1. For the academic year just ended, how many pupils received free home to school transport? This refers to children without EHCP's/SEND.***

13

***2. What was the total cost to the local authority of this provision? If possible please break this down by contracts for commercial buses/coaches, and passes for children to travel on public services.***

£13,250.50

The Local Authority had no contracts with transport providers and issued no travel passes, in respect of children without EHCPs Parents are asked to make their own suitable home-to-school travel arrangements and receive direct funding from the Local Authority, at the most economical cost.

***3. How many children received concessionary/spare/vacant seat places, and if possible how much money was received for these?***

None

***4. What is the current estimate for how many pupils will receive free home to school transport for the coming academic year and the current estimate of the cost to the authority?***

Non-SEN travel support is mainly provided under the extended rights eligibility, mobility problems and exceptional social / medical reasons. An estimate for the coming academic year cannot reasonably be given as funding is demand-led.

***5. Has the authority allowed applications for concessionary/spare/vacant seat places, revised numbers or told parents that there may not be capacity this year because of coronavirus?***

No

***6. Is the authority doing anything else to reduce demand for school buses, such as offering to reimburse parents for mileage expenses if they drive their children to school, or recruiting minicabs etc? If so please provide details.***

See response to Question 2

**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.