

23 February 2021

Our ref: 6982872

Thank you for your request received on 2 February 2021, for the following information:

This is a freedom of information request that is seeking information and data from you regarding the emotional and mental health of your children in care (children that your local authority has parental responsibility for), who are aged up to 18 years old.

- 1. Between the 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 what number of your children in care had an episode of self-harming, aligned to the NHS definition (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/self-harm/getting-help/>)?**
- 2. Between the 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 what number of your children in care attempted suicide?**
- 3. Between the 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 what number of your children in care committed suicide?**
- 4. Between the 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 what number of your children in care have been diagnosed with an attachment disorder?**
- 5. Between the 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 what number of your children in care have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder?**
- 6. Does your local authority have a system in place to record, monitor and report on the emotional and mental health of all your children in care?**

Under the terms of the Open Government Licence for Public Sector Information, the data and response that you supply to the request above will be placed on the website of Isabel's Voice (free access), and made available to the public unless you remove your permission to do so.

Grateful if you can respond to this FOI by the 3rd March, aligned to the ICO 20 day response guidance.

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

Response

1 . Between the 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 what number of your children in care had an episode of self-harming, aligned to the NHS definition (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/self-harm/getting-help/>)?

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5. Between the 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 what number of your children in care have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder?

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.

We have calculated that it will take approx 40.5 hours to comply with your request. Our calculation is as follows:

We have calculated that it will take considerably over 18 hours to comply with your request. Our calculation is as follows: We had approximately 486 children in care during the time frame requested and it would take at least 05 mins to look at each case file to determine if the children's emotional and mental wellbeing or any of the above disorders were an issue.

Unfortunately, we cannot see a way of reducing the request scope to bring it in within 18 hours appropriate limit.

6. Does your local authority have a system in place to record, monitor and report on the emotional and mental health of all your children in care?

The Children in Care statutory reviews are the mechanisms whereby Family Services records and monitors the children's emotional wellbeing, the support that we are offering and whether we need to be doing anything differently. These are individual confidential meetings that we cannot report on.

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We are happy for you to reuse the information providing you credit Barnet Council. The terms of using the information supplied can be found here

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/

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.