

3 March 2021  
Our ref: 7005668

Thank you for your request received on 4 February 2021, for the following information:

**Number of child referrals to social services on a monthly basis (Jan-2018 to Jan-2021) by source (e.g., schools, police, etc.)**

- \* **Number of child assessments by social services on a monthly basis (Jan-2018 to Jan-2021)**
- \* **Number of referred children awaiting assessment on a monthly basis (Jan-2018 to Jan-2021)**
- \* **Average length of time taken to respond to child referrals on a monthly basis (Jan-2018 to Jan-2021)**
- \* **Average length of time taken to place child into care placement following initial assessment on a monthly basis (Jan-2018-Jan-2021)**
- \* **Total number of LACs entering the system on a monthly basis (Jan-2018 to Jan-2021)**
- \* **Total number of LACs by age group on a monthly basis (Jan-2018 to Jan-2021)**
- \* **Total number of LACs by placement type setting (e.g., foster care, residential) on a monthly basis (Jan-2018 to Jan-2021)**
- \* **Total number of foster placements by provision type (e.g., own provision, private provision, third sector) on a monthly basis (Jan-2018 to Jan-2021)**
- \* **Average weekly fees per foster placement by provision type on a monthly basis (Jan-2018 to Jan-2021)**
- \* **Average length of foster placement on a monthly basis (Jan-2018 to Jan-2021)**

It would be great if you provide the data in the following form in an excel worksheet for each cut, with the example below being number of child referrals to social services on a monthly basis:

**Number of child referrals to social services by source on a monthly basis**  
**Jan-18 Feb-18 Mar-18 Apr-18 May-18 .... Jan-21**

**Anonymous**  
**Education services**  
**Health services**  
**Individual**  
**LA services**  
**Other**  
**Police**  
**Schools**  
**Unknown**

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

## Response

***Number of child referrals to social services on a monthly basis (Jan-2018 to Jan-2021) by source (e.g., schools, police, etc.)***

***\* Number of child assessments by social services on a monthly basis (Jan-2018 to Jan-2021)***

***\* Number of referred children awaiting assessment on a monthly basis (Jan-2018 to Jan-2021)***

***\* Average length of time taken to respond to child referrals on a monthly basis (Jan-2018 to Jan-2021)***

***\* Average length of time taken to place child into care placement following initial assessment on a monthly basis (Jan-2018-Jan-2021)***

***\* Total number of LACs entering the system on a monthly basis (Jan-2018 to Jan-2021)***

***\* Total number of LACs by age group on a monthly basis (Jan-2018 to Jan-2021)***

***\* Total number of LACs by placement type setting (e.g., foster care, residential) on a monthly basis (Jan-2018 to Jan-2021)***

***\* Total number of foster placements by provision type (e.g., own provision, private provision, third sector) on a monthly basis (Jan-2018 to Jan-2021)***

***\* Average weekly fees per foster placement by provision type on a monthly basis (Jan-2018 to Jan-2021)***

***\* Average length of foster placement on a monthly basis (Jan-2018 to Jan-2021)***

We are refusing part of 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 [41 hours] to comply with your request. Our calculation is as follows:

We are unable to respond to the highlighted questions as we would have to review each casefile of the children that have come into care to look for the information requested. We had 496 children come into care during the time frame requested, and it would take at least 5 minutes to review each case.  $496 \text{ cases} \times 5 \text{ minutes} = 2480 \text{ minutes}$  (approx. 41 Hours). We have therefore decided to refuse part of your request, please see Refusal notice (Section 12) above.

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

## 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.