

24 May 2021
Our ref: 7268704

Thank you for your request received on 26 April 2021, for the following information:

I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act to ask for the information outlined below.

I would be very grateful if you could return your response to me by completing the attached xlsx document which contains the following questions:

Q1 Please confirm the total number of referrals your Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub has received in the following financial years which involved an allegation of peer on peer sexual abuse among children under 18:

2017/18
2018/19
2019/20
2020/21

Q2 Please confirm the total number of referrals your Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub has received in the following financial years which involved an allegation of peer on peer sexual abuse among children under 18 that occurred on any school or college premises:

2017/18
2018/19
2019/20
2020/21

Q3 Please confirm the total number of referrals your Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub has received in the following financial years which involved an allegation of peer on peer sexual abuse among children aged 10 and under:

2017/18
2018/19
2019/20
2020/21

Q4 Please confirm the total number of referrals your Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub has received in the following financial years which involved an allegation of peer on peer sexual abuse among children aged 10 and under that occurred on any school premises.

2017/18
2018/19
2019/20

2020/21

If you do not collect this data, please indicate or provide data for any years you have available.

If you are encountering any other practical difficulties in complying with this request or require further information, please contact me as soon as possible (in line with your section 16 duty to advise and assist requesters) so that we can discuss the matter and if necessary I can modify the request.

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

Response

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 181 hours to comply with your request. Our calculation is as follows:

We are unable to provide this information within the statutory 18-hour limit because we do not collect this data in a retrievable format. To obtain this information we need to read each referral received by the MASH to ascertain if a referral was received regarding an allegation of peer on peer sexual abuse among children under 18.

Between the financial years 2017/18 to 2020/21 our MASH Team has received approximately 1086 contacts with Sexual Abuse as a presenting issue. It would take approximately 10 minutes to review each case to find out if a referral was received regarding an allegation of peer on peer sexual abuse among children under 18.

1086 cases x 10 minutes = 10860 minutes (181 Hours).

Advice and Assistance

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

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.