

8 June 2021  
Our ref: 7303360

Thank you for your request received on 10 May 2021, for the following information:

**Please supply the following information, in respect of each of the last three years (1 April to 31 March):**

**1) The number of child abuse and/or neglect allegations against people who work with children notified to your Local Authority Designated Officer in respect of a child placed/held in any of the following in your area (please provide data for each category of establishment):**

1. Children's home
2. Secure children's home
3. Semi-independent or independent accommodation
4. Independent boarding school (private boarding school that does not fall within category (5) below)
5. State boarding school (run by local council, academy or free school and does not fall within category (f) below)
6. Residential special school (N.B. schools which accommodate children for more than 295 days a year must be registered as children's homes, so please include data relating to those in (1) above)
7. Mental health inpatient unit
8. Hospital that does not fall within category (7) above
9. Young offender institution
10. Secure training centre
11. Immigration removal centre / short-term holding facility
12. Police custody

**2) Where possible, please provide the figures for question 1 above broken down by type of abuse:**

- \* Child sexual exploitation
- \* Emotional abuse
- \* Neglect
- \* Physical abuse
- \* Sexual abuse
- \* Other

**3) The number of Section 47 enquiries\* conducted in respect of a child placed/held in any of the following in your area (please provide data for each category of establishment):**

1. Children's home
2. Secure children's home
3. Semi-independent or independent accommodation
4. Independent boarding school (private boarding school that does not fall within category (5) below)
5. State boarding school (run by local council, academy or free school and does not fall within category (6) below)
6. Residential special school (N.B. schools which accommodate children for more than 295 days a year must be registered as children's homes, so please include data relating to those in (1) above)
7. Mental health inpatient unit
8. Hospital that does not fall within category (7) above
9. Young offender institution
10. Secure training centre
11. Immigration removal centre / short-term holding facility
12. Police custody

**4) Please provide the outcomes of these Section 47 enquiries\* (requested in question 3) using the headings below:**

- \* Abuse or neglect substantiated
- \* Abuse or neglect not substantiated
- \* Child moved
- \* Other children in establishment interviewed
- \* Other children moved
- \* Child provided counselling or other emotional support
- \* Member of staff convicted of criminal offence

- \* Criminal proceedings against member of staff ongoing
- \* Member of staff subject to disciplinary action
- \* Staff disciplinary proceedings online
- \* Other - please state
- \*Section 47 refers to Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

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

## Response

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds the information you requested. However, we are withholding some of that information since we consider that the following exemptions apply to it.

**1) The number of child abuse and/or neglect allegations against people who work with children notified to your Local Authority Designated Officer in respect of a child placed/held in any of the following in your area (please provide data for each category of establishment):**

1. **Children's home**
2. **Secure children's home**
3. **Semi-independent or independent accommodation**
4. **Independent boarding school (private boarding school that does not fall within category (5) below)**
5. **State boarding school (run by local council, academy or free school and does not fall within category (f) below)**
6. **Residential special school (N.B. schools which accommodate children for more than 295 days a year must be registered as children's homes, so please include data relating to those in (1) above)**
7. **Mental health inpatient unit**
8. **Hospital that does not fall within category (7) above**
9. **Young offender institution**
10. **Secure training centre**
11. **Immigration removal centre / short-term holding facility**
12. **Police custody**

**2) Where possible, please provide the figures for question 1 above broken down by type of abuse:**

- **Child sexual exploitation**
- **Emotional abuse**
- **Neglect**
- **Physical abuse**
- **Sexual abuse**
- **Other**
- 

We are only able to provide the data for the 4 establishments below. Please see the Refusal Notice (Personal data -exemption) below for the categories where the numbers are less than 5.

See Refusal Notice (personal data)

<b>Financial Year 2018/2021</b>	<b>Children's homes</b>	<b>Semi-independent or independent accommodation</b>	<b>Mental health inpatient unit</b>	<b>Hospital that does not fall within category (7) above</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Physical</b>	<5	<5	9	<5	14
<b>Emotional</b>	<5	<5	15	<5	21
<b>Sexual</b>	<5	<5	<5	<5	6

<b>Neglect</b>	6	<5	31	<5	42

3) *The number of Section 47 enquiries\* conducted in respect of a child placed/held in any of the following in your area (please provide data for each category of establishment):*

1. *Children's home*
2. *Secure children's home*
3. *Semi-independent or independent accommodation*
4. *Independent boarding school (private boarding school that does not fall within category (5) below)*
5. *State boarding school (run by local council, academy or free school and does not fall within category (6) below)*
6. *Residential special school (N.B. schools which accommodate children for more than 295 days a year must be registered as children's homes, so please include data relating to those in (1) above)*
7. *Mental health inpatient unit*
8. *Hospital that does not fall within category (7) above*
9. *Young offender institution*
10. *Secure training centre*
11. *Immigration removal centre / short-term holding facility*
12. *Police custody*

See Refusal Notice (Exceeds costs)

4) *Please provide the outcomes of these Section 47 enquiries\* (requested in question 3) using the headings below:*

- *Abuse or neglect substantiated*
- *Abuse or neglect not substantiated*
- *Child moved*
- *Other children in establishment interviewed*
- *Other children moved*
- *Child provided counselling or other emotional support*
- *Member of staff convicted of criminal offence*
- *Criminal proceedings against member of staff ongoing*
- *Member of staff subject to disciplinary action*
- *Staff disciplinary proceedings online*
- *Other – please state*

See Refusal Notice (Exceeds costs)

#### **Refusal Notice Personal data Section 40(2) identifying individuals through statistical tables (fewer than 5)**

The information you require is below, but some information has been redacted in the table. This is because in some instances, owing to the low numbers of individuals involved (fewer than 5) disclosing this data may make it possible for individuals to be identified. This information is therefore exempt by virtue of section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), as disclosure of this information to the public generally, in the Council's view, would not be consistent with data protection principles in Article 5 of the General Data Protection Regulations. This is an absolute exemption and the public interest test does not apply.

#### **Refusal Notice - exceeds cost limit Section 12**

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 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 Section 47 enquiry to ascertain if this enquiry was held in respect of a child placed at one of the above establishments

For the last 3 years approximately 2490 Section 47 enquiries have been conducted.

It would take at least 5 minutes to review each case to find out if the Section 47 enquiries was held in respect of a child placed at one of the above establishments.

$2490 \times 5 = 207$  hours

We must therefore refuse your request, please see Refusal notice (Section 12) below.

### **Advice and Assistance**

Unfortunately, we are unable to suggest any way in which the request can be brought within the 18 hour 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.