

5 July 2021  
Our ref: 7417540

Thank you for your request received on 8 June 2021, for the following information:  
**As a charity we issued over £350,000 in car seats last year but following our barrister's report we commissioned, we found that statutory services should be assessing for this equipment and at least considering provision.**

**I am emailing in reference to a previous FOI request we received 26th February 2019 (REF 5058528 ) and I would like to enquire about this further.**

**In question 1a we asked 'With the exclusion of provision made for school transport, does the local authority provide specialist car seats to children with disabilities?', to which you answered, 'No'.**

**This sounds like a blanket ban policy on car seat provision. As such we need to understand the circumstances in which you would provide this equipment.**

**I look forward to hearing from you.**

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

## **Response**

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below

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***This sounds like a blanket ban policy on car seat provision. As such we need to understand the circumstances in which you would provide this equipment.***

Having consulted with the Social Care OT service we can confirm that there is no blanket ban policy; rather that the context is far more complex with issues that need to be considered. There are issues around assessed needs, health and safety and responsibility to be considered.

For example:

- Clinical and specialist expertise required - not least in the area of car safety and crash testing of the equipment prescribed.
- Assessment requires a knowledge and expertise in the postural management of child and needs in some cases.
- Issues of restraint and release (for safe exit of a car in an accident - one point release) is complex with managing challenging behaviours in a car - again requires a level of knowledge and expertise of the clinician.
- Using and providing a car seat is the responsibility of the parent in the first instance. There may be exceptional circumstances for the very complex needs for whom the standard commercially available seats are not suitable and the Local Authority may have a reason to consider funding.

### **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.

