

1 September 2021

Our ref: 7576496

Thank you for your request received on 11 August 2021, for the following information:

**1. Year on Year between 2018 to 2021 - for the whole year to date. How many children have allegedly been 'abducted' by parents or close family members.**

**2. Year on Year between 2018 to 2021 - for the whole year to date. How many persons have been investigated for criminal offences relating to Child Abduction offences in relation to close family members**

**3. Year on Year between 2018 to 2021 - please provide a breakdown of persons believed to have absconded overseas with children.**

**4. Year on Year between 2018 to 2021 how many persons who have absconded overseas have now returned to the UK.**

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

## **Response**

***1. Year on Year between 2018 to 2021 - for the whole year to date. How many children have allegedly been 'abducted' by parents or close family members.***

***2. Year on Year between 2018 to 2021 - for the whole year to date. How many persons have been investigated for criminal offences relating to Child Abduction offences in relation to close family members***

***3. Year on Year between 2018 to 2021 - please provide a breakdown of persons believed to have absconded overseas with children.***

***4. Year on Year between 2018 to 2021 how many persons who have absconded overseas have now returned to the UK.***

We are unable to provide this information within the statutory 18-hour limit because we do not hold this data in a reportable format. To obtain this information we need to read each referral received to ascertain if any of the children have been 'abducted' by parents or close family members.

Over the three financial years we have received almost 8914 referrals. It would take at least 05 minutes to review each case file to find out if any of the children have been 'abducted' by parents or close family members.

8914 referrals x 05 minutes = 44570 minutes (742 Hours).

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

## **Refusal Notice**

Section 12 of FOIA states that the council does not have to comply with a request for information if the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit of £450 calculated at £25 per hour with a limit of 18 hours. The appropriate limit relates strictly to the process of determining whether the information is held; locating, retrieving and extracting the information, or a document containing it.

## **Advice and Assistance**

CAFCASS may be able to provide this information. You can contact them at <https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/contact-us/>

## **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.