

2 September 2021  
Our ref: 7549572

Thank you for your request received on 5 August 2021, for the following information:

**1. The total number of Looked After Children under your local authority care, where family members outside the United Kingdom were explored\* for each calendar year between January 2018 and December 2020 inclusive.**

**2. The number of Looked After Children under your local authority care that were placed outside the United Kingdom for each calendar year between January 2018 and December 2020 inclusive.**

**3. The number and type of placement orders used for placing Looked After Children from your local authority care with family members outside the United Kingdom for each calendar year between January 2018 and December 2020 inclusive.**

**For the purposes of this request Looked After Children is defined as being subject to**

**\* Section 31 The Children Act 1989;**

**\* Section 38 Children act 1989;**

**\* Section 20 Children Act 1989.**

**\*Please note that by 'where family members outside the United Kingdom were explored', we mean where a family member of a Looked After Child under your local authority care outside the United Kingdom was identified, considered as a possible carer for the child, and steps to assess the family member as a suitable carer for the child were considered. Please include both:**

**\* children where an assessment of a family member outside the UK was considered but not actually carried out; and**

**\* children where an assessment of a family member outside the UK was carried out.**

Please provide the information electronically. For ease and clarity, please see the format provided below:

**Question. 2018. 2019. 2020. Total.**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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 total number of Looked After Children under your local authority care, where family members outside the United Kingdom were explored\* for each calendar year between January 2018 and December 2020 inclusive.***

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 Looked after Child's file to ascertain if family members outside the United Kingdom were explored as possible carers.

Over the 3 years almost 800 children have come into care. It would take at least 5 minutes to review each case to find out if family members outside the United Kingdom were explored as possible carers.

800 cases x 5 minutes = 4000 minutes (67 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.

**2. The number of Looked After Children under your local authority care that were placed outside the United Kingdom for each calendar year between January 2018 and December 2020 inclusive.**

We are unable to provide the data as the numbers are less than 5. Please see the Refusal Notice (Personal data -exemption) below.

**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

**3. The number and type of placement orders used for placing Looked After Children from your local authority care with family members outside the United Kingdom for each calendar year between January 2018 and December 2020 inclusive.**

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**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](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.