

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London, NW9 4EW
29 September 2021
Our ref: 7626476

Thank you for your request received on 3 September 2021, for the following information:

I am writing to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I understand you are required to acknowledge my request and respond within 20 working days. In this case, the deadline for the response is Friday October 1, 2021.

If it is not possible to answer all of the questions including for reasons related to cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please still answer as many questions as possible, starting from question 1. Please do not pause a response to this request because you cannot answer one of the questions. Please answer as many as you can.

If any of this information is available publicly, please provide a link to the document or webpage where the information, exactly as requested, is published.

Questions:

Please can you disclose:

1.

The total number of migrant unaccompanied minors* cared for by the local authority in each of the past ten years.

This can be disclosed as either financial or calendar years, depending on how you record this data, and please provide 2021 figures up to today's date, 3/9/2021.

***By "migrant unaccompanied minors" I mean children under 18 seeking asylum who have no responsible adult with them to care for them so are in need of local authority care.**

2.

The number of migrant unaccompanied minors cared for by the local authority who were reported missing in each of the years.

If you record the number of relevant missing episodes rather than the number of individual minors reported missing, I am happy for you to provide this.

3.

If held, the number of these children who were flagged as being reported missing repeatedly in each of these years and a figure for the number of missing episodes recorded for the child who went missing the most times in each year.

4.

If held, the age range of the migrant unaccompanied minors reported missing in each of the years.

For instance, if 10 of the children were reported missing and their ages were 10, 10, 11, 15, 9, 9, 12, 17, 17 and 16 then you would just disclose the age range as 9-17.

5.

If held, the number of these children who were labelled as at risk of child sexual exploitation and/or human trafficking when they were reported missing while in the local authority's care in each of the years.

6.

If held, the number of these missing episodes in each year deemed "high risk" and the number deemed "medium risk".

7.

The total number of migrant unaccompanied minors transferred to the local authority under the National Transfer Scheme in each year since 2016.

As above, this can be disclosed as either financial or calendar years, depending on how you record this data, and please provide 2021 figures up to today's date, 3/9/2021.

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 believe that the exemptions detailed below apply to some of this information and this is withheld. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

Questions:

Please can you disclose:

1.

The total number of migrant unaccompanied minors* cared for by the local authority in each of the past ten years.

This can be disclosed as either financial or calendar years, depending on how you record this data, and please provide 2021 figures up to today's date, 3/9/2021.

****By "migrant unaccompanied minors" I mean children under 18 seeking asylum who have no responsible adult with them to care for them so are in need of local authority care.***

Please see our response on the attached spreadsheet

2.

The number of migrant unaccompanied minors cared for by the local authority who were reported missing in each of the years.

If you record the number of relevant missing episodes rather than the number of individual minors reported missing, I am happy for you to provide this.

Please see our response on the attached spreadsheet

3.

If held, the number of these children who were flagged as being reported missing repeatedly in each of these years and a figure for the number of missing episodes recorded for the child who went missing the most times in each year.

Please see our response on the attached spreadsheet

4.

If held, the age range of the migrant unaccompanied minors reported missing in each of the years.

For instance, if 10 of the children were reported missing and their ages were 10, 10, 11, 15, 9, 9, 12, 17, 17 and 16 then you would just disclose the age range as 9-17.

Please see our response on the attached spreadsheet

5.

If held, the number of these children who were labelled as at risk of child sexual exploitation and/or human trafficking when they were reported missing while in the local authority's care in each of the years.

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

6.

If held, the number of these missing episodes in each year deemed "high risk" and the number deemed "medium risk".

Please see response to Q5

7.

The total number of migrant unaccompanied minors transferred to the local authority under the National Transfer Scheme in each year since 2016. As above, this can be disclosed as either financial or calendar years, depending on how you record this data, and please provide 2021 figures up to today's date, 3/9/2021.

We do not record this information but as London Borough of Barnet has been consistently above the Home Office threshold of 0.07% of child population we would not be accepting children via the National Transfer Scheme.

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 Records & Information Management Service, Assurance Group, 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.