

London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
4 October 2021
Our ref: 7635840

Thank you for your request received on 8 September 2021, for the following information:

I would like to request the following information:

1) How many cases have been referred to or dealt with by the council's social services regarding concerns about a child or children living in poor/unsuitable housing conditions?

2) How many of these cases have resulted in the temporary or permanent removal of a child or children from those housing conditions?

3) How many cases have been referred to or dealt with by the council's social services regarding concerns about an elderly or vulnerable adult living in poor/unsuitable housing conditions?

4) How many of these cases have resulted in the temporary or permanent removal of an elderly or vulnerable adult from those housing conditions?

Can you please provide the data for Qs 1 - 4 from January 1st, 2016 up to and including the most recent data you hold for 2021. Please provide the data broken down year-by-year, eg:

2016:

2017:

2018:

2019

2020

2021 (so far):

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

Response

I can confirm that the council holds the information you requested. However we are withholding the information because we consider that the following exemption exemptions and exceptions apply to it.

1) How many cases have been referred to or dealt with by the council's social services regarding concerns about a child or children living in poor/unsuitable housing conditions?

There have been 320 referrals from housing since April 2016, on 297 individual children, see table below. To identify the specific information you have request would require going through each of the housing referral files.

Source	Housing Referrals
2016-17	94
2017-18	90
2018-19	56
2019-20	35
2020-21	38
2021-22	7
GRAND TOTAL	320

See Refusal Notice below

2) How many of these cases have resulted in the temporary or permanent removal of a child or children from those housing conditions?

See Refusal Notice below

3) How many cases have been referred to or dealt with by the council's social services regarding concerns about an elderly or vulnerable adult living in poor/unsuitable housing conditions?

Information not held

4) How many of these cases have resulted in the temporary or permanent removal of an elderly or vulnerable adult from those housing conditions?

Information not held

Can you please provide the data for Qs 1 - 4 from January 1st, 2016 up to and including the most recent data you hold for 2021. Please provide the data broken down year-by-year, eg:

2016:

2017:

2018:

2019

2020

2021 (so far):

S12 - Cost limit (Exceeds Appropriate Limit)

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 Regulation 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 have calculated that it will take approx 80 hours to comply with your request. Our calculation is as follows: 15 minutes per housing referral (320) = 80 hours.

Advice and Assistance

You could narrow your request to a shorter time period to bring the time period to complete the request under 18 hours.

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.

