

London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale, NW9 4EW
4 November 2021
Our ref: 7740132

Thank you for your request received on 18 October 2021, for the following information:

Please find attached a Freedom of Information (FOI) questionnaire about vision impairment (VI) education services, which The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) are issuing to every local authority in England.

We have timed our FOI very carefully this year, again delaying from the summer term due to the impact of Covid. We hope the advance notice given of the change and allowance of an additional two weeks on the FOI deadline will support your completion of the questions. The deadline for this FOI is Friday 26th November.

This year's FOI will include Habilitation services, the specialist vision impairment curriculum framework as well as education services for children and young people with VI.

The last RNIB FOI was carried out in 2020 and we now need to obtain up to date information to monitor any changes, so we can continue our work to protect education services provided to children and young people with VI. We hope that you will also find the information that we collect valuable and useful.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could prioritise completing the questionnaire. It is important that we receive a completed questionnaire from all local authorities to understand the situation in services across England.

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

Response

I am writing to inform you that we have searched our records and although we hold some of the information requested, some of the information you requested is not held by London Borough of Barnet.

We have provided answers to your request below and attached.

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Question 3a - The spend data for the VI service is not separately identified in our Finance system so we are unable to provide this data.

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.