

London Borough of Barnet,  
2 Bristol Avenue,  
Colindale, NW9 4EW  
22 November 2021  
Our ref: 7786616

Thank you for your request received on 28 October 2021, for the following information:

**Please complete the spreadsheet attached the Freedom of Information Act 2000, within the 20 working day legal limit and no later. Thank you!**

**To summarise, the questions are:**

**1.the number of education psychologists employed directly by the council in a)2009-10 b) 2018-19 c) 2019-20 d)2020-21**

**2.the number of vacancies within the council for education psychologists in a)2009-10 b) 2018-19 c) 2019-20 d)2020-21**

**3.the number of school pupils on a waiting list to see an education psychologist in a)2009-10 b) 2018-19 c) 2019-20 d)2020-21  
the cost of an education psychologist per hour to a school in a)2009-10 b) 2018-19 c) 2019-20 d)2020-21**

**4.the number of state schools (including academies) in the local authority that use a council-employed education psychologist in a)2009-10 b) 2018-19 c) 2019-20 d)2020-21**

**5.the reason for any capacity issues relating to education psychologists**

**Please answer as many of these questions as you can within the time limit. If you have to drop one because of legal time constraints, please drop question number 1.**

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.

**1.the number of education psychologists employed directly by the council in:**

**a)2009-10** - not known

**b) 2018** - 14.93 FTE (but varied over the year)

**c) 2019-20** - 14.83 FTE (but varied over the year)

**d)2020-21** - 13.5 FTE (but varied over the year)

**2.the number of vacancies within the council for education psychologists in**

**a)2009-10 b) 2018-19 c) 2019-20 d)2020-21** - not specified

**3.the number of school pupils on a waiting list to see an education**

**psychologist in a)2009-10 b) 2018-19 c) 2019-20 d)2020-21** - we do not operate a waiting list,

**The cost of an education psychologist per hour to a school in a)2009-10 b) 2018-19 c) 2019-20 d)2020-21** -

S43 - Commercial interests - We consider that the qualified exemption set out in Section 43 (Prejudicial to commercial interests) subsection (2) applies to the information requested. Therefore, we have decided to withhold the information. Please see the refusal notes below.

**4.the number of state schools (including academies) in the local authority that use a council-employed education psychologist in**

**a)2009-10 21** - the percentage of schools that used a council-employed education psychologist in 2009 was 100%

**b) 2018-19 c) 2019-20 d)2020-21** - from 2018 to 2021 over 90% of Barnet schools use a Barnet council-employed educational psychologist with the percentage as stable or increasing over time, particularly in the last 2 years.

**5.The reasons for capacity issues relating to education psychologists:**

Age of the profession

Number of new EPs in training

LA push factors and number of EPs working independently

#### **S43 - Commercial interests**

We have concluded that this information is exempt under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) because the disclosure of this information would be prejudicial to the London Borough of Barnet's and partners commercial interests. This is a qualified exemption and the public interest test applies

We have considered the public interest the disclosure of this information. These factors include the importance of transparency in the decision-making process relating to the spending of public money to ensure that procurement processes are conducted in an open and honest way. It is also important for the public to see taxpayers' money being used effectively and public authorities getting value for money.

We have also considered the public interest in withholding this information. If disclosed, there is a strong risk that the Council's bargaining position for the future will be prejudiced and commercial organisations may become reluctant to enter into further free and frank negotiations. This would undermine the Council's ability to fulfil its role effectively and prevent it from achieving the value for money that is so important.

For these reasons we consider that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

### **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 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](http://www.ico.org.uk)). There is no charge for making an appeal.

