

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London, NW9 4EW
9 May 2022
Our ref: 8240699

Thank you for your request received on 25 April 2022, for the following information:

I am writing to make an open government request for all information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please send me all available details relating to the following questions:

Has your local authority employed any entire children's social work team, sometimes referred to as a managed team, through an agency over the last five years? How many teams have you used ? Please provide details as a year-on-year breakdown.

If so, which area of children's social care were agency teams employed to cover?

How long were any agency children's social work teams employed by the local authority - please provide the average length of each assignment?

What was the cost of employing children's social work teams, sometimes referred to as managed teams, through an agency, to the local authority over the last five years, as a year-on-year breakdown?

I am also looking for:

Details regarding the number of children's social workers employed individually through an agency by your local authority over the last five years as a year-on-year breakdown.

The cost to the local authority of employing individual children's social workers (permanent staff not agency) over the last five years.

I would like the above information provided to me in an email if possible to the address noted at the bottom of this correspondence.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined I would be grateful for any further advice and assistance.

If this information is already in the public domain, please direct me to it including URL links and page numbers where possible.

If you are unable to release any of this information on the grounds of a breach of confidentiality, please supply me with copies of the corresponding signed confidentiality agreement.

I understand you are required to respond to me within 20 working days of receiving this request. I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this email.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone.

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

Response

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below

Has your local authority employed any entire children's social work team, sometimes referred to as a managed team, through an agency over the last five years? How many teams have you used ? Please provide details as a year-on-year breakdown.

No

If so, which area of children's social care were agency teams employed to cover?

N/A

How long were any agency children's social work teams employed by the local authority - please provide the average length of each assignment?

N/A

What was the cost of employing children's social work teams, sometimes referred to as managed teams, through an agency, to the local authority over the last five years, as a year-on-year breakdown?

N/A

Details regarding the number of children's social workers employed individually through an agency by your local authority over the last five years as a year-on-year breakdown.

2021/22 - Average 58.8

2020/21 - Average 67.5

2019/20 - Average 65

2018/19 - Average 64.9

2017/18 - Average 44.1

The cost to the local authority of employing individual children's social workers (permanent staff not agency) over the last five years.

2021/22 - c£4.0 million

2020/21 - c£4.6 million

2019/20 - c£4.5 million

2018/19 - c£4.5 million

2017/18 - c£3.1 million

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.

