

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
NW9 4EW
6 June 2022
Our ref: 8261529

Thank you for your request received on 8 May 2022, for the following information:

I'm doing a report for ITV News on the amount of money being given in direct payments to the families of children with special educational needs (SEN). Please could you provide me with the following information.

1a) In 2016, How many children with SENs were supported by the council providing 'direct payments' to their parents/guardians?

1b) In 2021, How many children with SENs were supported by the council providing 'direct payments' to their parents/guardians?

2a) In 2016, What was the total amount paid out by the council in 'direct payments' for children with SENs?

2b) In 2021, What was the total amount paid out by the council in 'direct payments' for children with SENs?

2a) In 2016, What was the council's full budget for SEN provision?

2b) In 2021, What was the council's full budget for SEN provision?

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.

1a) In 2016, How many children with SENs were supported by the council providing 'direct payments' to their parents/guardians?

Please note that we have omitted the data where the values are 5 or less as this could reveal the identities of the children. We consider that this information is exempt under section 40 of FOIA. Please see the refusal notice below.

1b) In 2021, How many children with SENs were supported by the council providing 'direct payments' to their parents/guardians?

10

2a) In 2016, What was the total amount paid out by the council in 'direct payments' for children with SENs?

£33,098

2b) In 2021, What was the total amount paid out by the council in 'direct payments' for children with SENs?

£190,000

2a) In 2016, What was the council's full budget for SEN provision?

£37,899,440

2b) In 2021, What was the council's full budget for SEN provision?

£55,528,000

Refusal Notice

S40(2) identifying individuals through statistical tables (5 or less)

The information you require is attached, but some information has been redacted. This is because in some instances, owing to the low numbers of individuals involved (5 or less) 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.

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.