

2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

28 November 2022

Our ref: 8654698

Thank you for your request received on 14 November 2022, for the following information:

Hi,

Please consider this a Freedom of Information Act request for the following information.

1. Does your authority record how many children and young adults (4-24) take 15 days or more off school due to serious illness (mental or physical)? If so, please detail:

- a) The total number of such cases for the past 5 years - 2015-2020**
- b) Any breakdown of such cases by personal characteristics - considering age, gender, ethnicity, location and religion**
- c) Any breakdown of such cases by illness type, total school days missed, or similar**

2. If the answer to the above question is no, please detail:

- a) Why**
- b) if there are any plans to change this**
- c) if such data has ever previously been recorded, and if so, why it was stopped.**

Please respond to this request at the email address provided within 20 working days, as is required by the Freedom of Information Act.

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.

1. Does your authority record how many children and young adults (4-24) take 15 days or more off school due to serious illness (mental or physical)?

No

If so, please detail:

- a) The total number of such cases for the past 5 years - 2015-2020***
- b) Any breakdown of such cases by personal characteristics - considering***

age, gender, ethnicity, location and religion

c) Any breakdown of such cases by illness type, total school days missed, or similar

2. If the answer to the above question is no, please detail:

a) Why

The Education Welfare Team (EWT) are a traded service, we only support the schools in the Borough that have opted to buy our service for children of Statutory school age (5-16). Schools choose who they refer to our service, so where a child is being supported by the school with absence due to serious illness, they may not refer to the EWT.

Schools are also able to refer directly to our medical outreach programme for those children who are unable to attend school - this would be carried out by the school and the EWT may not be aware of these referrals.

b) if there are any plans to change this

The Children Not in School Register implemented by the DfE as a recording tool for this cohort will hopefully be in effect September 2023.

c) if such data has ever previously been recorded, and if so, why it was stopped.

This information has not been recorded by the Council previously. Each school will hold information on those children who have incurred 15 days or more absence and are responsible for this data. You can contact Schools directly using the following link: [Schools | Barnet Council](#)

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.