

London Borough Of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue
6 April 2023
Our ref: 9174604

Thank you for your request received on 30 January 2023, for the following information:

1/ For each of the last four financial years and the current year to date, how many Looked After Children (LAC) were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children? Please break down the number by year. For clarity, please provide the total number of such children placed into care (LAC) during that year.

2/ For each of the last four financial years and the current year to date, on how many occasions did Looked After Children who were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children go missing?

3/ How many of these unaccompanied asylum-seeking LAC went missing and did not return? Please break down by year.

4/ a) How many LAC (in total, including unaccompanied asylum-seeking LAC) were abducted while in the care of the authority over this entire period? b) How many of these were known to be unaccompanied asylum-seeking LAC? c) If known, please provide the name of the provider where most children have gone missing but not returned? d) Where detailed, please provide descriptions of any abductions (e.g. child abducted by car outside a children's home) and the age of the child.

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

Response

I can confirm that the council holds some information requested. However we are withholding parts of the information because we consider that the following exemptions applies.

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

The information you require is available, 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

S12 - Cost limit (Exceeds Appropriate Limit)

We are refusing your request under section 12 because we estimate that compliance with your request will exceed the "appropriate limit" under section 12. The appropriate limit is £450 which is equivalent to 18 hours at £25 per hour. The per hour figure is set by Regulation rather than actual salary paid to any officers handling requests. The appropriate limit includes the time it will take the council to discover if it holds the information requested, to locate it, extract it and collate it as well as putting it into any particular format requested by the requester.

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Q1	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Number of UASC	64	67	67
Number of CLA	312	327	323

2/ For each of the last four financial years and the current year to date, on how many occasions did Looked After Children who were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children go missing?

This is exempt under S40, please see refusal notice above.

3/ How many of these unaccompanied asylum-seeking LAC went missing and did not return? Please break down by year.

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This is exempt under S12, please see refusal notice above.

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.