

London Borough Of Barnet  
2 Bristol Avenue  
13 April 2023  
Our ref: 9374612

Thank you for your request received on 13 March 2023, for the following information:

**1.**  
**How many (i) care experienced children in your local authority aged 16-17 (inclusive) are currently housed in unregulated accommodation and (ii) how many unaccompanied asylum seeking children aged 16-17 (inclusive) are currently housed in unregulated accommodation.**

**Unregulated accommodation is sometimes known as 'independent accommodation' or 'semi-independent accommodation'.**

**By care experienced children I mean children who are known to the council and who have been living in foster care or residential accommodation or another form of regulated accommodation as outlined above.**

**By unregulated accommodation I mean accommodation for care experienced children aged 16 and over, where they can receive support but not care. Please use this article from Become Charity for more information on what defines unregulated accommodation.**

**It does not include foster homes, residential care, hospital settings, residential school settings.**

**2.**  
**How many care experienced children in your local authority aged 16-17 have gone missing between 18 February 2021 and 1 March 2023?**

**3.**  
**How many unaccompanied asylum seeking children in your local authority aged 16-17 have gone missing between 18 February 2021 and 1 March 2023?**

**4.**  
**Please can you provide information on what mechanisms are in place to ensure that children housed in independent or semi-independent accommodation are properly cared for. Information could be but is not limited to guidance for housing providers or landlords, guidance for social workers, guidance for children and young people.**

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.

***How many (i) care experienced children in your local authority aged 16-17 (inclusive) are currently housed in unregulated accommodation***

33

***(ii) how many unaccompanied asylum seeking children aged 16-17 (inclusive) are currently housed in unregulated accommodation.***

30

2.

***How many care experienced children in your local authority aged 16-17 have gone missing between 18 February 2021 and 1 March 2023?***

98

3.

***How many unaccompanied asylum seeking children in your local authority aged 16-17 have gone missing between 18 February 2021 and 1 March 2023?***

22

4.

***Please can you provide information on what mechanisms are in place to ensure that children housed in independent or semi-independent accommodation are properly cared for. Information could be but is not limited to guidance for housing providers or landlords, guidance for social workers, guidance for children and young people.***

For anyone placed in accommodation as a looked-after child, there is a placement planning meeting to discuss/agree support requirements. This is monitored and reviewed through statutory looked-after processes, including visits and formal reviews chaired by an independent reviewing officer. It is an expectation that the placement provider participates in the review process. All providers are quality assured by The Placements Team and The Commissioning Alliance. This will ensure all policies and procedures are in place and checked. Visits are undertaken to providers properties to guarantee that they are of a high standard for our looked after young people.

## 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.