

2 Bristol Avenue  
London  
NW9 4EW  
17 April 2023  
Our ref: 9324788

Thank you for your request received on 6 March 2023, for the following information:

- 1. a) In the 12 months to 1 March 2023 how many children in your local authority area were referred as needing a placement in a secure, regulated setting?**  
**b) How many got one?**  
**c) How many children in your local authority are currently waiting for a secure placement in a regulated setting?**
- 2. In the two years to 1 March 2023, what is the average time a child in your local authority area has had to wait for a secure placement in a regulated setting?**
- 3. a) In the two years to 1 March 2023, what is the longest a child has waited for a secure placement in a regulated setting?**  
**b) Please provide the age and sex of that child.**
- 4. In the five years from 2018 to 2022 inclusive, how many children in local authority care have died in;**  
**a) Secure accommodation**  
**b) Unregulated accommodation**  
**c) Waiting for a secure placement.**
- 5. How many of those in question 4) died by suicide in;**  
**a) Secure accommodation**  
**b) Unregulated accommodation**  
**c) Waiting for a secure placement**  
**d) How old was the youngest child to die by suicide? And can you please give their sex? (We will not identify this child by local authority area. We are trying to understand how many children across England and Wales, by age, sex and placement type, have died, and how they died, and we will report this without location data).**
- 6. In the two years to 1 March 2023, how many applications have you made to the family court for permission to place a child in unregulated accommodation?**
- 7. In the two years to 1 March 2023, how many children referred as needing a secure placement has your local authority placed in an unregulated setting?**

**8. In the five years from 2018-2022 inclusive, how many Serious Case Reviews have been commissioned in your local authority in relation to children referred as needing a placement in a secure unit?**

**9. Please tell me what your local authority currently pays per week for children in,**

**a) Regulated secure accommodation - average price and highest individual current price being paid**

**b) Unregulated accommodation - average price, and highest individual price currently being paid.**

**10. In the two years to 1 March 2023, how many looked after children have you sought DoL orders for?**

**11. In the two years to 1 March 2023 how many looked after children from your local authority have been sent to Scotland because secure regulated accommodation or appropriate paediatric mental health care has not been available in England?**

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

## **Response**

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

**1. a) In the 12 months to 1 March 2023 how many children in your local authority area were referred as needing a placement in a secure, regulated setting?**

**b) How many got one?**

**c) How many children in your local authority are currently waiting for a secure placement in a regulated setting?**

This is exempt under S40, please see refusal below.

**2. In the two years to 1 March 2023, what is the average time a child in your local authority area has had to wait for a secure placement in a regulated setting?**

12 months

**3. a) In the two years to 1 March 2023, what is the longest a child has waited for a secure placement in a regulated setting?**

12 months

**b) Please provide the age and sex of that child.**

14 Male

**4. In the five years from 2018 to 2022 inclusive, how many children in local authority care have died in;**

**a) Secure accommodation**

- b) Unregulated accommodation**
- c) Waiting for a secure placement.**

This is exempt under S40, please see refusal below.

**5. How many of those in question 4) died by suicide in;**

- a) Secure accommodation**
- b) Unregulated accommodation**
- c) Waiting for a secure placement**

**d) How old was the youngest child to die by suicide? And can you please give their sex? (We will not identify this child by local authority area. We are trying to understand how many children across England and Wales, by age, sex and placement type, have died, and how they died, and we will report this without location data).**

This is exempt under S40, please see refusal below.

**6. In the two years to 1 March 2023, how many applications have you made to the family court for permission to place a child in unregulated accommodation?**

This is exempt under S40, please see refusal below.

**7. In the two years to 1 March 2023, how many children referred as needing a secure placement has your local authority placed in an unregulated setting?**

This is exempt under S40, please see refusal below.

**8. In the five years from 2018-2022 inclusive, how many Serious Case Reviews have been commissioned in your local authority in relation to children referred as needing a placement in a secure unit?**

This is exempt under S40, please see refusal below.

**9. Please tell me what your local authority currently pays per week for children in,**

- a) Regulated secure accommodation - average price and highest individual current price being paid**

<b>2022-23</b>	<b>Per Day Per Week</b>	
Secure Children's Home	£770	<b>£5,390</b>
Secure Training Centre	£733	<b>£5,131</b>
Youth Offending Institution	£307	<b>£2,149</b>

- b) Unregulated accommodation - average price, and highest individual price currently being paid.**

As at 31/03/23:

Highest: £6,434  
Average: £1,508

**10. In the two years to 1 March 2023, how many looked after children have you sought DoL orders for?**

This is exempt under S12, please see refusal below.

**11. In the two years to 1 March 2023 how many looked after children from your local authority have been sent to Scotland because secure regulated accommodation or appropriate paediatric mental health care has not been available in England?**

This is exempt under S40, please see refusal below.

**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.

**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

**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.