

2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

20 April 2023
Our ref: 9461842

Thank you for your request received on 26 March 2023, for the following information:

I would like to have the answers to the following questions:

What is your current policy on EOTAS and current procedure for families to access EOTAS were appropriate for their child? On 29 November 2022, you did not have a policy regarding this and said this was to be updated.

For the following questions, please break down the figures for the following tax years:

**2019 - 2020
2020 - 2021
2021 - 2022
2022 - to date**

If possible, please provide the data as an excel document.

How many EHCNA requests were made to Barnet in each year?

How many EHCNA requests lead to an agreement to assess within the 6 weeks?

How many ENCNA requests were turned down by the end of the 6 week period?

How many of those ENCNA requests that were initially turned down were subsequently challenged leading to an agreement to assess? How many as a result of mediation? How many as a result of SEND tribunal?

How many mediations (ENCNA related) did Barnet cancel with less than 5 days notice?

How many mediations (ENCNA related) did Barnet cancel with less than 2 days notice?

How many ENCNA requests to assess did Barnet agree to in the five days prior to a scheduled mediation meeting leading to Barnet to cancel a planned meditation?

How many draft EHCPs did Barnet issue within 14 weeks of the initial agree to assess date?

How many draft EHCPs did Barnet issue after 14 weeks of the initial agree to assess date? (ie Barnet missed the statutory deadline but did issue a draft EHCP)

How many EHCPs did Barnet turn down at 16 weeks following assessment and evidence gathering in weeks 6 - 12?

How many EHCPs did Barnet turn after week 16 following assessment and evidence gathering in weeks 6 - 12? (ie Barnet missed the statutory deadline) How many of those decisions not to issue an EHCP were then successfully challenged, leading to a draft EHCP being issued by Barnet? How many as a result of mediation? How many as a result of SEND tribunal?

How many mediations (EHCP related) did Barnet cancel with less than 5 days notice?

How many mediations (EHCP related) did Barnet cancel with less than 2 days notice?

How many decisions not to issue an EHCP did Barnet reverse in the five days prior to a scheduled mediation meeting leading to Barnet to issue an EHCP ?

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

Response

I can confirm that the council holds the information you requested. Please see the attached spreadsheet.

However we are withholding some of the information because we consider that the following exemption applies to question 12, 13, 14 & 15.

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.

We would have to read through 398 cases. It would take approximately 10 minutes to review each case. 398 files x 10 minutes = 3,980 minutes (66.3 hours). We have therefore decided to refuse your request.

Advice and Assistance

We are unable to suggest ways in which the request can be narrowed to bring it within the 18 hour time limit.

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.