

2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

25 May 2023
Our ref: 9669132

Thank you for your request received on 27 April 2023, for the following information:

In relation to parents being fined for taking their children out of school during term time, for each school year from September 1 2015 to present date - including where possible how many have been handed out during the current 2022/23 school year - please kindly provide data on the number of unauthorised absences.

Further, in each school year from September 1 2015 to present date - including where possible how many have been handed out during the current 2022/23 school year - please provide data on the number of fines you have awarded

Further, in each school year from September 1 2015 to present date - including where possible how many have been handed out during the current 2022/23 school year - please provide the number of parents you have prosecuted for non-payment of fines.

Further, please can you also break all of the above data down into primary and secondary schools.

Please provide the information in the Excel spreadsheet template

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 the information because we consider that the following exemption exemptions and exceptions apply to it.

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 have calculated that it will take approx 2030 hours to comply with your request. Our calculation is as follows:

We would have to individually check 12,185 penalty fines. It would take approximately 10 minutes to review each case. 12,185 fines x 10 minutes = 121,850 minutes (2,030 hours). We have therefore decided to refuse this part of your request.

Advice and Assistance

Please note you may request this data directly from schools individually.

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, Wycliff House, Water

Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.