

2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

3 April 2024
Our ref: 11735452

Thank you for your request received on 12 March 2024, for the following information:

- In your local authority area, confirm the total number of fines given as a result of absence from mainstream schools, broken down by school type - including primary, secondary and special schools, for the academic years of 2018/2019, 2021/2022, and 2022/2023.
- In your local authority, confirm the total number of individuals in receipt of a fine as a result of absence from mainstream school, broken down by school type - including primary, secondary, and special schools, for the academic years of 2018/2019, 2021/2022, and 2022/2023.
- In your local authority, confirm the total number of fines that were paid as a result of absence from mainstream school, broken down by school type - including primary, secondary, and special schools, for the academic years of 2018/2019, 2021/2022, and 2022/2023.

I understand that under the Act I am entitled to a response within 20 working days of your receipt of this request.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all non-exempt material. I reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to charge excessive fees.

I would prefer to receive the information electronically.

If you require any clarification, I expect you to contact me to provide advice and assistance if you find any aspect of this FOI request problematic. Please acknowledge receipt of this request, and I look forward to receiving the information in the near future.

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 exemption and exceptions apply to it.

- In your local authority area, confirm the total number of fines given as a result of absence from mainstream schools, broken down by school type - including primary, secondary and special schools, for the academic years of 2018/2019, 2021/2022, and 2022/2023.

2018/19 1069 in total

2019/20 2186 in total

2020/21 45 in total

2021/22 374 in total

2022/23 1040 in total

We do not receive FPN requests from special schools.

- In your local authority, confirm the total number of individuals in receipt of a fine as a result of absence from mainstream school, broken down by school type - including primary, secondary, and special schools, for the academic years of 2018/2019, 2021/2022, and 2022/2023.

Please note the answers in the first question would apply to this question.

- In your local authority, confirm the total number of fines that were paid as a result of absence from mainstream school, broken down by school type - including primary, secondary, and special schools, for the academic years of 2018/2019, 2021/2022, and 2022/2023.

2018/19 £79,660

2019/20 £98,450

2020/21 £2,100

2021/22 £17,721

2022/23 £43,140

Please note the Local Authority has not broken down the answers into school type due to time limit. Please see the exemption 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.

We would have to check 4714 invoice records. It would take approximately 3 minutes to review each file. 4714 files x 3 minutes = 14,142 minutes (235 hours). We have therefore decided to refuse your request, please see refusal notice (Section 12) below.

Advice and Assistance

Please note that due to the way this information is recorded, we're currently unable to clarify the request in order to avoid the cost limit exemption.

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.