

2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

23 December 2024

Our ref: 13486856

Thank you for your request received on 29 November 2024, for the following information:

**Please provide the answers to the following questions in relation to the number of requests for individual children's school places, rather than the number of actual requests. So if a request was made by a parent on behalf of two siblings that would count as two requests rather than one.**

**1. Please state how many requests your authority received in each of the last two academic years (i) 2022/23, (ii) 2023/4 and (iii) the current academic year 2024/25 for a place within your authority that was made outside of the standard admissions process (i.e. an in-year transfer, or mid-year transfer)?**

**2. Please state how many of these requests (your answer to Question 1) you have been able to fulfil for each of the last two academic years (i) 2022/23, (ii) 2023/24 and the current academic year (iii) 2024/25?**

**3. Please state how many of these requests (your answer to Question 1) your authority received in each of the last two academic years (i) 2022/23, (ii) 2023/24 and (iii) the current academic year 2024/25 for a place in a school within your authority in relation to a child that was exiting from a place in an independent/private school?**

**4. Please state how many of these requests (your answer to Question 3) you have been able to fulfil for each of the last two academic years (i) 2022/23, (ii) 2023/24 and the current academic year (iii) 2024/25?**

**5. Please state how many requests your authority received in total (those made in-year/mid year and those to be actioned at the conclusion of an academic year) in each of the last two academic years (i) 2022/23, (ii) 2023/24 and (iii) the current academic year 2024/25 for a place in a school within your authority where the child is exiting from another school? Note: In relation to this question please do NOT include the normal transfer of pupils from one school to another when they progress from Year 6 in primary school to Year 7 in secondary school.**

**6. Please state how many of these requests (your answer to question 5) you have been able to fulfil for each of the last two academic years (i) 2022/23, (ii) 2023/24 and the current academic year (iii) 2024/25?**

**7. In how many of these cases from your answer to Question 3 have you opted to allow the children to stay at the private school and the local authority has decided to take on the cost of the school fees? For each case please state in which academic year your authority took over the payment of the school fees and state if the pupil did have or did not have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) naming an independent/private school?**

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.

***Please provide the answers to the following questions in relation to the number of requests for individual children's school places, rather than the number of actual requests. So if a request was made by a parent on behalf of two siblings that would count as two requests rather than one.***

***1. Please state how many requests your authority received in each of the last two academic years (i) 2022/23, (ii) 2023/4 and (iii) the current academic year 2024/25 for a place within your authority that was made outside of the standard admissions process (i.e. an in-year transfer, or mid-year transfer)?***

Approximate figures:

- 2022/23: 8,789
- 2023/24: 8,109
- 2024/25: 3,366 (as of 15/12/2024)

***2. Please state how many of these requests (your answer to Question 1) you have been able to fulfil for each of the last two academic years (i) 2022/23, (ii) 2023/24 and the current academic year (iii) 2024/25?***

- 2022/23: 100% in the category of eligible children without access to educational provision. Those seeking transfer to a higher preference oversubscribed school were placed on the waiting list pending a potential offer.
- 2023/24: As above
- 2024/25: As above or as expected for new applications in process

**3. Please state how many of these requests (your answer to Question 1) your authority received in each of the last two academic years (i) 2022/23, (ii) 2023/24 and (iii) the current academic year 2024/25 for a place in a school within your authority in relation to a child that was exiting from a place in an independent/private school?**

2022/23: Data not available

2023/24: 76

2024/25: 145

**4. Please state how many of these requests (your answer to Question 3) you have been able to fulfil for each of the last two academic years (i) 2022/23, (ii) 2023/24 and the current academic year (iii) 2024/25?**

- 2022/23: 100% in the category of eligible children without access to educational provision.
- 2023/24: As above
- 2024/25: As above or as expected for new applications in process

**5. Please state how many requests your authority received in total (those made in-year/mid year and those to be actioned at the conclusion of an academic year) in each of the last two academic years (i) 2022/23, (ii) 2023/24 and (iii) the current academic year 2024/25 for a place in a school within your authority where the child is exiting from another school? Note: In relation to this question please do NOT include the normal transfer of pupils from one school to another when they progress from Year 6 in primary school to Year 7 in secondary school.**

In respect of your enquiry for information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, the information that you asked for cannot be provided within the statutory 18 hour limit because a breakdown of data at this level is not available.

\*Please see the refusal notice below.

**6. Please state how many of these requests (your answer to question 5) you have been able to fulfil for each of the last two academic years (i) 2022/23, (ii) 2023/24 and the current academic year (iii) 2024/25?**

As above

**7. In how many of these cases from your answer to Question 3 have you opted to allow the children to stay at the private school and the local authority has decided to take on the cost of the school fees? For each case please state in which academic year your authority took over the payment of the school fees and state if the pupil did have or did not have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) naming an independent/private school?**

None – mainstream applicants

**\*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 [1013 hours] to comply with your request. Our calculation is as follows:

We would need to look at each application individually to collate this information; it would take approximately 3 minutes per application (20,264 applications x 3 mins = 60,792 mins (1,013 hours / 28+ working days)

### **Advice and Assistance**

Please note that due to the way this information is held on our case management system, we're 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](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.