



My Ref: FOI4582
Your Ref:
Date: 25/06/2025
Enquiries to: Information Requests
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Requester,

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

Your questions and my findings are as follows:-

I am writing to make a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on behalf of Variety, the Children's Charity (Registered Charity No. 209259).

Background and Public Interest

This request forms part of our comprehensive national research examining the intersection of disability, homelessness, and child poverty across England. The information will be used to:

- Inform evidence-based policy recommendations to government**
- Support our advocacy work for vulnerable children**
- Contribute to public discourse on housing and disability policy**
- Guide our charitable support services and resource allocation**

We believe this research serves a clear public interest in understanding and addressing inequalities faced by some of society's most vulnerable children.

Information Requested

For your local authority area, please provide the following information regarding children (aged 0-18) currently living in temporary accommodation who have been identified as disabled:

Primary Data Request:

1. Total number of disabled children currently in temporary accommodation (or as of the most recent date for which data is available - please specify the date)

As of 23/07/2025 there were 5 children recorded as having a disability living in temporary accommodation.

Breakdown Information (if held):

2. Disability categories - breakdown by type of disability using your authority's recording system (e.g., physical disability, learning disability, autism spectrum conditions, sensory impairments, mental health conditions, multiple disabilities)

All five children were recorded as having a diagnosis of Autism.

3. Demographics:

- **Age ranges (e.g., 0-5, 6-11, 12-17 years)** The five children are 6, 9, 12, 13, and 16
- **Gender breakdown** There are 2 females and 5 males

4. Accommodation details (if recorded):

- **Types of temporary accommodation (e.g., B&B, hostels, temporary housing units)**

All children are living in self-contained temporary accommodation

- **Average length of stay in temporary accommodation**

The average length of stay of all children living in temporary accommodation with a recorded disability is 103 days

Historical Data:

5. Annual figures for the past 10 years (2014-2024) showing trends in numbers of disabled children in temporary accommodation, or for whatever period records are available.

This information is not recorded in a reportable format. In order to find this information, we would need to read through each homelessness application where children are recorded as being part of the household and to do so would exceed the time allowed.

Format and Clarifications

- **Preferred format:**
Excel spreadsheet or CSV file, with PDF acceptable if other formats unavailable
- **Disability definition: Please use whatever definition/criteria your authority uses to identify disabled children (e.g., EHCP, disability register, social care assessments)**
- **Data currency: Please specify the date to which the current figures relate**
- **Nil returns: If no data is held in any category, please confirm this explicitly**

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Data Protection and Usage

All information will be handled in accordance with GDPR and data protection legislation. No individual children will be identifiable from our research outputs. Aggregated data will be used solely for research, policy development, and charitable purposes.

Request Scope

We understand some requested information may not be held or may be exempt under FOI provisions. Please provide whatever information is available and specify if any elements cannot be provided, with reasons.

If this request requires clarification, exceeds cost limits, or if you need to discuss scope refinement, please contact me within 5 working days to discuss how we might proceed.

Response Requirements

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I understand you are required to respond within 20 working days of receipt of this request. Please acknowledge receipt and provide an expected response date.

Thank you for your assistance with this critical research. The information you provide will contribute significantly to our understanding of this vulnerable population and help inform better support systems.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Information Requests Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

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PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Email: <http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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