



My Ref: FOI6011
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: -

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information regarding placements and spending for Children with a Statement or EHC Plan in an Independent Special School.

Please provide answers on the attached accompanying Excel spreadsheet.

I am aware of data published by the Department for Education.

However, the 'Education, health and care plans' data set

(<https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fexplore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk%2Ffind-statistics%2Feducation-health-and-care-plans&data=05%7C02%7Cinformationrequests%40barnsley.gov.uk%7Cfb8ac0e3e83840dec4d908dea145e8a1%7Cba6a247133404314a96948d8cdc4c4f8%7C0%7C0%7C639125519011170419%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C60000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hqSolmXSvA6%2FWKakro9ggxxvZdsqDbWqtVYNG5%2FdQLs%3D&reserved=0>) does not provide any granular breakdown by primary type of SEN need.

I am also aware of the 'Special education needs in England' data set

(<https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fcollections%2Fstatistics-special-educational-needs-sen&data=05%7C02%7Cinformationrequests%40barnsley.gov.uk%7Cfb8ac0e3e83840dec4d908dea145e8a1%7Cba6a247133404314a96948d8cdc4c4f8%7C0%7C0%7C639125519011230011%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C60000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=O14l%2Fc8ZSMzsdm1f6Awmk3VRy9zpNdf%2Bej%2FxxX7hXbxQ%3D&reserved=0>), which includes the number of pupils with SEN by primary type of need but excludes independent special schools, meaning that it cannot be directly compared or combined with the 'Education, health and care plans' data set.

Therefore, I would like to request the following information:

1. Please could you supply the name, job title, email address and telephone

number of the commissioner with responsibility for children and young people's Special Educational Needs (SEN) school placements.

All school placements are agreed through a multi-agency panel. Information about commissioning should be addressed to Childrenscommissioning@barnsley.gov.uk

2. Please provide the total number of children and young people with a Statement of SEN or Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan who are in placement at an Independent Special School, as at 31 March for the last three financial years, with a primary diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD):

i. Within the local authority boundary (in-area placements)

2023/24 - 79

2024/25 - 79

2025/26 - 96

ii. Outside the local authority boundary (out-of-area placements)

2023/24 - 57

2024/25 - 53

2025/26 - 71

Please provide data as at 31 March for the three years from 2023/24 to 2025/26.

3. Please provide the total number of children and young people with a Statement of SEN or Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan who are in placement at an Independent Special School, as at 31 March for the last three financial years, with a primary diagnosis of Social, Emotional Mental Health needs (SEMH):

i. Within the local authority boundary (in-area placements)

2023/24 - 7

2024/25 - 12

2025/26 - 12

ii. Outside the local authority boundary (out-of-area placements)

2023/24 - 50

2024/25 - 45

2025/26 - 35

Please provide data as at 31 March for the three years from 2023/24 to 2025/26.

4. How many placements were newly initiated during each financial year (i.e., the EHC Plan named an independent special school for the first time in that year), for the last three financial years, with a primary diagnosis of:

i. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

(©) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

This information is a relevant copyright work for the purposes of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. It is owned solely by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council but you are able to use and re-use it freely without charge, including for commercial purposes, in accordance with the terms of the Open Government Licence found at The National Archives Website <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence>

You can also write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU

When re- using the information please ensure that you:

Acknowledge the copyright and source of the information by including the following attribution statement: "Contains Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council information (©) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Licensed under the Open Government Licence."

Include the same acknowledgement in any sub-licences you grant, and a requirement that any further sub-licences do the same.

Do not use the information in a way that suggests that Barnsley Council endorses you or your use of the information.

The information is licensed "as is". Barnsley Council is not liable for any errors or omissions in the information and shall not be liable for any loss, injury or damage of any kind caused by its use.

PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

2023/24 - 37
2024/25 - 21
2025/26 – 35

ii. Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH)

2023/24 - 11
2024/25 - 19
2025/26 - 16

Please provide data for the three financial years from 2023/24 to 2025/26.

5. What was the average (mean) weekly day placement fee paid for ASD placements in independent special schools in each of the financial years 2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26?

2023/24 – £1323.57
2024/25 – £1614.64
2025/26 – £1700.24

6. What was the average (mean) weekly day placement fee paid for SEMH placements in independent special schools in each of the financial years 2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26?

2023/24 – £1397.45
2024/25 – £1475.25
2025/26 – £1564.92

7. What was your authority's total annual expenditure on independent special school placements for children in each of the financial years 2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26, with a primary diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

2023/24 – £8,724,039
2024/25 – £9,448,890
2025/26 – £12,146,532

8. What is the weekly fee range (minimum and maximum) paid by your authority for independent special school placements for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the financial year 2025/26 or the most recent financial year for which data is available? Please provide separately for:

- i. Day placements - £921.05 (Min) £3375.63 (Max) – based on full annual fee rate
- ii. Residential / weekly boarding placements (if applicable) – £2474.21 (Min) £2795.50

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

(©) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

This information is a relevant copyright work for the purposes of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. It is owned solely by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council but you are able to use and re-use it freely without charge, including for commercial purposes, in accordance with the terms of the Open Government Licence found at The National Archives Website <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence>

You can also write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU

When re- using the information please ensure that you:

Acknowledge the copyright and source of the information by including the following attribution statement: "Contains Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council information (©) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Licensed under the Open Government Licence."

Include the same acknowledgement in any sub-licences you grant, and a requirement that any further sub-licences do the same.

Do not use the information in a way that suggests that Barnsley Council endorses you or your use of the information.

The information is licensed "as is". Barnsley Council is not liable for any errors or omissions in the information and shall not be liable for any loss, injury or damage of any kind caused by its use.

PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

(Max) – based on full annual fee rate (education costs only)

9. Please provide the number of children and young people with a Statement of SEN or EHC Plan with a primary need of ASD, in a day placement at an Independent Special School, with fees per week, as at 31 March 2026, of:

- i. Less than £1,000 - 23
- ii. £1,000 to £1,499 - 20
- iii. £1,500 to £1,999 - 25
- iv. £2,000 to £2,499 - 70
- v. £2,500 or more - 28

Please state which timescale was used if data as at 31 March 2026 was not available.

For the purposes of this FOI, the definition of alternative provision is as follows: education arranged by local authorities for children of compulsory school age who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, would not otherwise receive suitable education; alternative provision can also be used by schools for children on a suspension (fixed period exclusion); and for children being directed by schools to offsite provision to receive education intended to improve their behaviour.

10. Please provide the number of children in Alternative Provision (AP) with a Statement of SEN or Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan, across all primary needs, segmented by setting type, using the following categories in the following financial years: 2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26.

- i. Local authority-operated provision (e.g. PRUs)
- ii. Academy or free school AP (AP academies, AP free schools)
- iii. Independent schools with an AP specialism
- iv. Online learning provision and online learning providers
- v. Unregistered providers
- vi. Charities and voluntary sector providers

After considering your request in relation to this question I have decided to refuse it under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. This is because it is estimated that the time taken to provide the information would exceed the appropriate limit of £450, equivalent to 18 hours of staff time.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act is a provision which allows a public authority to refuse to comply with the request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed a set limit known as the appropriate limit.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

(©) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

This information is a relevant copyright work for the purposes of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. It is owned solely by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council but you are able to use and re-use it freely without charge, including for commercial purposes, in accordance with the terms of the Open Government Licence found at The National Archives Website <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence>

You can also write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU

When re- using the information please ensure that you:

Acknowledge the copyright and source of the information by including the following attribution statement: "Contains Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council information (©) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Licensed under the Open Government Licence."

Include the same acknowledgement in any sub-licences you grant, and a requirement that any further sub-licences do the same.

Do not use the information in a way that suggests that Barnsley Council endorses you or your use of the information.

The information is licensed "as is". Barnsley Council is not liable for any errors or omissions in the information and shall not be liable for any loss, injury or damage of any kind caused by its use.

PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

We do not hold the data in exactly the format requested but can provide most of the information in the attached excel spreadsheet. To provide the data in the requested format would exceed the maximum time allowed for an FOI, having already spent approximately 8 hours collating and checking data for questions 1 to 9. It is estimated that it would take a further 12 hours to provide the data in question 10 in the stated format.

11. If available, please provide the total Alternative Provision (AP) spend for the most recent year (e.g. 2025/26), broken down by setting type for children with a Statement of SEN or Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan:

- i. Local authority-operated provision (e.g. PRUs)
- ii. Academy or free school AP (AP academies, AP free schools)
- iii. Independent schools with an AP specialism
- iv. Online learning provision and online learning providers
- v. Unregistered providers
- vi. Charities and voluntary sector providers

It is not possible to provide the data broken down in this format as our finance system does not record it in this way.

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

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

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

(©) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

This information is a relevant copyright work for the purposes of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. It is owned solely by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council but you are able to use and re-use it freely without charge, including for commercial purposes, in accordance with the terms of the Open Government Licence found at The National Archives Website <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence>

You can also write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU

When re- using the information please ensure that you:

Acknowledge the copyright and source of the information by including the following attribution statement: "Contains Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council information (©) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Licensed under the Open Government Licence."

Include the same acknowledgement in any sub-licences you grant, and a requirement that any further sub-licences do the same.

Do not use the information in a way that suggests that Barnsley Council endorses you or your use of the information.

The information is licensed "as is". Barnsley Council is not liable for any errors or omissions in the information and shall not be liable for any loss, injury or damage of any kind caused by its use.

PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

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

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

(©) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

This information is a relevant copyright work for the purposes of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. It is owned solely by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council but you are able to use and re-use it freely without charge, including for commercial purposes, in accordance with the terms of the Open Government Licence found at The National Archives Website <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence>

You can also write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU

When re- using the information please ensure that you:

Acknowledge the copyright and source of the information by including the following attribution statement: "Contains Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council information (©) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Licensed under the Open Government Licence."

Include the same acknowledgement in any sub-licences you grant, and a requirement that any further sub-licences do the same.

Do not use the information in a way that suggests that Barnsley Council endorses you or your use of the information.

The information is licensed "as is". Barnsley Council is not liable for any errors or omissions in the information and shall not be liable for any loss, injury or damage of any kind caused by its use.

PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG