



My Ref: FOI5167
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: -

Could you please answer the following questions about your library services.

- **How many hours in total were your council run public libraries open to the general public (not just people with library cards) in a) 2010 b) 2015 c) 2020 d) 2024**

	2010	2015	2020	2024
Aggregate Scheduled Open Hours	36,361.0	35,285.0	27,456.0	27,456.0
Actual Hours Open	N/A	31,930.0	11,925.5	23,970.5

Aggregate Scheduled Opening Hours are calculated by multiplying the weekly published opening hours (as on 31st March) by 52 weeks. No hours are subtracted for Bank Holidays.

Actual Hours Open are for the calendar year.

The Aggregate Scheduled Opening Hours have been provided for each year, as the actual hours open are unavailable for 2010, and as a comparison for 2020 and 2024 due to the significant deviance between the published and actual hours open.

2020 was the Covid19 Pandemic lockdown year, so there were significant closure periods throughout the year.

In 2024, 5 libraries were closed during the year for varying periods, whilst the libraries were refurbished.

- **How many of these hours were unstaffed in? a) 2010 b) 2015 c) 2020 d) 2024?**

	2010	2015	2020	2024
Unstaffed Hours	0	0	0	1,209

- **How many free weekly library sessions for children under 5 years old (such as rhyme time, baby bounce or story sessions) were provided in your council run public libraries in a) 2010 b) 2015 c) 2020 d) 2024**

	2010	2015	2020	2024
Free weekly sessions for Under 5's	N/A	516	133	902

2020 was the lockdown year and restrictions were in place relating to groups meeting and singing taking place. The recorded sessions are from January – March 2020.

- **How many free weekly library sessions for children between the ages of 5-18 (such as board games, homework clubs, reading groups) were provided in your council run public libraries in a) 2010 b) 2015 c) 2020 d) 2024**

	2010	2015	2020	2024
Free weekly sessions for 5 – 18 years	N/A	332	156	784

2020 was the lockdown year and restrictions were in place relating to groups meeting. The recorded sessions are from January – March 2020.

- **How many full-time equivalent library workers were employed by your council in the financial years a) 2015/16 b) 2020/21 c) 2024/25**

		2015/16	2020/21	2024/25
FTE Library Workers		68.56	60.09	66.8

The figures exclude vacant posts and relief staff. All figures reflect the position on 1st April in each financial year.

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:

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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
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

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

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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