



My Ref: FOI/4454
Your Ref:
Date: 27/05/2025
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:-

Please provide the following information for 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 (from 01/01/25 until 16/05/25, or when you choose to respond to this):

- 1) The total amount spent on expert witnesses in public law family court proceedings (e.g. care proceedings under the Children Act 1989) by Barnsley Borough Council.**
- 2) A breakdown of the types of experts instructed (e.g. psychologists, psychiatrists, independent social workers, medical professionals, etc.) and the total spend per category.**
- 3) A list of the top 10 experts or expert firms by total spend between 2022 and 2025 (inclusive). Please provide the name of the expert or firm where this does not breach the data protection exemption as well as how much was spent on each individual or firm. If this breaches a cost exemption, please only disclose the top 5 experts.**

Having considered your request I have decided to refuse it under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit of £450, equivalent to 18 hours of staff time.

The Council does not hold the information requested in an easily accessible or statistical format. It is estimated that to locate and retrieve the information would require each individual case file to be reviewed which as a piece of work would exceed the 18 hour limit.

It is possible that your request may be refined to make it manageable within the 18 hour limit, such as by narrowing the scope or categories of information requested. In any case however, given the manual searches that would be required to provide anything it may not be possible still even if the request is refined.

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
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

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

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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