



My Ref: FOI 6679
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: -

Please provide the information listed below for your authority for each year from 2014 to 2024.

**Where possible, please provide the data in spreadsheet format (Excel or CSV).
If any part of the request is unclear or would exceed the cost limit, please advise me which sections can be provided within the limit.**

1. Looked After Children (LAC) – Core Statistics

A. Children starting to be looked after

Number of children who started to be looked after.

Please specify whether figures are recorded by calendar year, financial year, or 31 March snapshot.

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

B. Children ceasing to be looked after

Please provide totals broken down by:

returned home

adopted

Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs)

residence orders

other permanence outcomes

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

Breakdown unavailable for this period due to system migration in 2022.

C. Total number of children looked after

Total number of children looked after as of 31 March each year.

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

D. Calculation method

Please confirm the formula or method used to calculate yearly totals (e.g., raw counts, system reports, or national dataset imports).

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

2. Mental Health of Looked After Children

A. Diagnosed mental health conditions

Number of LAC with a recorded mental health diagnosis.

If diagnoses are not recorded, please confirm whether you hold:

mental health flags

CAMHS referral records

emotional wellbeing indicators

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

B. Pre-existing vs. developed in care

Of the above:

number diagnosed before entering care

number diagnosed during care

Data not held in a reportable format

3. Self-Harm and Suicide Incidents

Number of LAC with recorded incidents of:

self-harm

suicide attempts

suicide deaths

Please include incidents recorded in:

safeguarding reports

incident logs

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serious incident notifications

Data not held in a reportable format

4. Missing / Absconding / Unauthorised Absences **Number of LAC recorded as:**

missing

absent without authorisation

repeatedly missing (3+ episodes)

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

5. Complaints, Allegations, and Data Breaches

A. Complaints: Number of complaints made against children's social care, broken down by: complaints by parents, complaints by looked after children, outcomes (upheld / partially upheld / not upheld)

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

B. Allegations

Number of allegations made against:

foster carers

residential staff

other professionals

Data not held in a reportable format.

C. Data breaches

Number of data breaches involving children's social care, including:

how many involved children's data

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

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6. Parental Mental Health

Number of assessments where parental mental health was recorded as a factor, and how many resulted in:

child protection plans

children entering care

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

7. Outcomes for Children Returned Home

Number of children who returned home and how many:

were re-referred

were re-assessed

re-entered care within 12 months

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

8. Placement Stability

Number of placement moves per child:

1–2 moves

3–5 moves

6+ moves

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

9. Out-of-Area Placements

Number of children placed outside your authority area, including distance bands:

0–20 miles

20–50 miles

50+ miles

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

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10. Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)

Number of UASC looked after by your authority.

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

11. Recording Systems

Case management system(s) used between 2014–2024 (e.g., LiquidLogic, Mosaic, CareFirst).

Whether any data migration occurred that may affect historical totals.

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

12. Definitions and Counting Rules

Please provide your authority's definitions for:

started to be looked after

ceased to be looked after

placement

episode

missing

unauthorised absence

mental health diagnosis

complaint

allegation

Please confirm whether any definitions changed between 2014–2024.

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

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.

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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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