



My Ref: FOI/ 4883
Your Ref:
Date: 24th September 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: -

DIGITAL

1 Who is/are the current supplier(s) of digital books (ebooks and eaudio books) to your public library?

Overdrive

2 Which other suppliers of digital books (ebooks and eaudio books) have you used in the last 10 years?

None.

QUANTITY

3 How many physical books do you currently have available to borrow aimed at children, defined as readers aged under 18 years old?

56,002 (includes all Young Adult)

4 How many ebooks do you currently have available to borrow aimed at children, defined as readers aged under 18 years old?

This information has been requested from our supplier, but they have not yet provided it and are currently checking with their Legal Department that they have permission to release the information.

5 How many eaudiobooks do you currently have available to borrow aimed at children, defined as readers aged under 18 years old?

This information has been requested from our supplier, but they have not yet provided it and are currently checking with their Legal Department that they have permission to release the information.

6 How many physical books do you currently have available to borrow classified as 'juvenile'?

50,357

7 How many ebooks do you currently have available to borrow classified as 'juvenile'?

This information has been requested from our supplier, but they have not yet provided it and are currently checking with their Legal Department that they have permission to release the information.

8 How many eaudiobooks do you currently have available to borrow classified as 'juvenile'?

This information has been requested from our supplier, but they have not yet provided it and are currently checking with their Legal Department that they have permission to release the information.

9 How many physical books do you currently have available to borrow classified as 'young adult'?

5,645 (includes Teen)

10 How many ebooks do you currently have available to borrow classified as 'young adult'?

This information has been requested from our supplier, but they have not yet provided it and are currently checking with their Legal Department that they have permission to release the information.

11 How many eaudiobooks do you currently have available to borrow classified as 'young adult'?

This information has been requested from our supplier, but they have not yet provided it and are currently checking with their Legal Department that they have permission to release the information.

SPEND

12 What is your current pa spend on physical books?

£156,150

13 What is your current pa spend on ebooks?

£10,000

14 What is your current pa spend on eaudiobooks?

£10,000

15 What is your current pa spend on physical books classified as 'adult'?

£99,400

16 What is your current pa spend on ebooks classified as 'adult'?

Estimate £6,500

17 What is your current pa spend on eaudiobooks classified as 'adult'?

Estimate £6,500

18 What is your current pa spend on physical books classified as 'juvenile'?

£39,775

19 What is your current pa spend on ebooks classified as 'juvenile'?

Estimate £1,750

20 What is your current pa spend on eaudiobooks classified as 'juvenile'?

Estimate £1,750

21 What is your current pa spend on physical books classified as 'young adult'?

£16,975

22 What is your current pa spend on ebooks classified as 'young adult'?

Estimate £1,750

23 What is your current pa spend on eaudiobooks classified as 'young adult'?

Estimate £1,750

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.

USEAGE

24 How many book lends did you make in 2025?

158,983 (1st Jan – 10th Sept 2025)

25 How many book lends did you make in 2024?

234,190

26 How many books were not lent out at all in 2025?

159,811 items have a last charge date before 1st January 2025. This figure could include items which are missing, lost, reference only etc.

27 How many books were not lent out at all in 2024?

This is difficult to calculate retrospectively as the criteria used would be last charge date and an item could now have an issue date in 2025, but didn't issue in 2024.

102,597 items have a last charge date before 1st January 2024. This figure could include items which are missing, lost, reference only etc.

28 How many lends of ebooks did you make in 2025?

14,047 (1st Jan – 10th Sept 2025)

29 How many lends of ebooks did you make in 2024?

20,465

30 How many ebooks were not lent out at all in 2025?

11 (position at 10th Sept 2025)

31 How many ebooks were not lent out at all in 2024?

5

32 How many lends of ebooks aimed at children - defined as readers aged under 18 years old - did you make in 2025?

1,881 (1st Jan – 10th Sept 2025)

33 How many lends of ebooks aimed at children - defined as readers aged under 18 years old -did you make in 2024?

2,544

34 How many ebooks aimed at children - defined as readers aged under 18 years old - were not lent out at all in 2025?

1,417 (1st Jan – 10th Sept 2025)

35 How many ebooks aimed at children - defined as readers aged under 18 years old - were not lent out at all in 2024?

1,757

40 How many lends of eaudiobooks did you make in 2025?

9,435 (1st Jan – 10th Sept 2025)

41 How many lends of eaudiobooks did you make in 2024?

11,948

42 How many eaudiobooks were not lent out at all in 2025?

0

43 How many eaudiobooks were not lent out at all in 2024?

0

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.

44 How many lends of eaudiobooks aimed at children - defined as readers aged under 18 years old - did you make in 2025?

1,417 (1st Jan – 10th Sept 2025)

45 How many lends of eaudiobooks aimed at children - defined as readers aged under 18 years old - did you make in 2024?

1,757

46 How many eaudiobooks aimed at children - defined as readers aged under 18 years old - were not lent out at all in 2025?

0

47 How many eaudiobooks aimed at children - defined as readers aged under 18 years old - were not lent out at all in 2024?

0

BOOKLIST

52 Please provide a list of all the isbns for the physical books you currently offer in your library service aimed at children - defined as readers aged under 18 years old.

All ISBNs for physical books are available in the public domain on the library catalogue. [Library Catalogue](#)

It is our understanding, based on ICO regulations, that if the information is available elsewhere, regardless of how long it would take to retrieve, and even if there is a charge, then the information does not have to be provided.

53 Please provide a list of all the isbns for the ebooks you currently offer in your library service coded as juvenile or 'young adult'. This information will be available from your digital book supplier.

This information has been requested from our supplier, but they have not yet provided it and are currently checking with their Legal Department that they have permission to release the information.

54 Please provide a list of all the isbns for the eaudiobooks you currently offer in your library service coded as juvenile or 'young adult'. This information will be available from your digital book supplier.

This information has been requested from our supplier, but they have not yet provided it and are currently checking with their Legal Department that they have permission to release the information.

CONTACT

55 Please provide the contact details of the department at your local authority responsible for library services to people aged under 18 years.

Please send any enquiries to BarnsleyLibraryEnquiries@barnsley.gov.uk

REPORTING

56 Please provide a list of the data categories you collect relating to library borrowings

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.

We can access a wide range of information via our Library Management System, including demographic information relating to our library users (providing they have supplied this information). Our regular metrics include total number of issues (including renewals), active borrowers (someone who has borrowed an item in the last 12 months), total number of new library members. We can run ad hoc reports to monitor specific aspects of operational delivery as required. We also monitor usage of different genres and non-fiction categories of stock to inform where new and re-circulated stock is sent to meet evidence-based demand.

57 Please provide a list of the data categories you collect from your digital book supplier relating to library borrowings

Our main metrics are the total number of downloads for e-books, e-audio and e-magazines. We also have access to the number of checkouts broken down by genre/subject. We also monitor the number of titles purchased each month.

SCHOOLS

58 Do you currently operate a scheme with schools in your area for the school to register their pupils with your public library service?

In addition to individual children joining the library, we also offer class tickets for teachers to borrow items to be used in school. We are currently starting a pilot project for automatic enrolment to the library service by the time a child starts school.

SYSTEMS

59 What library management system do you use?

Sirsi Dynix

SELECTION

60 Who selects the physical books in your collection?

This is a mixture of supplier selection and library staff.

61 Who selects the ebooks in your collection?

Library staff – stock specialists

62 Who selects the eaudiobooks in your collection?

Library staff – stock specialists

63 What criteria is used to select the physical books in your collection?

Our aim is to provide access to as wide a range of material as possible to support the information, learning, business, cultural and leisure needs of the whole borough. The majority of new stock (Adult Fiction, Adult Non Fiction, Children's Fiction and Children's Non Fiction) is chosen by Supplier Selection based on library requirements to ensure selection meets customer needs. An analysis of loan statistics from across our branches informs the compilation of the Supplier Specification documents. To ensure consistency, library branches are placed into groups which reflect size, issue figures and, where appropriate, popularity of category. Adult Fiction and Non Fiction supplier selections are monitored by library officers.

A smaller percentage of physical stock is chosen by the library service's stock specialists (staff knowledge) or guided by direct customer requests. Criteria based on:

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.

specific stock availability; value for money, budget; customer borrowing data (based on individual branch issues); reading promotions, such as Black History Month, Summer Reading Challenge, Health & Wellbeing etc.

64 What criteria is used to select the ebooks in your collection?

Our stock specialists select all ebooks based on value for money; on customer demand (driven by borrowing data, number of customer 'holds', number of Notify Me requests); staff book knowledge; special promotions, such as The Booker Prize longlist, Black History Month, LGBTQ+ History Month, upcoming library author events etc.

65 What criteria is used to select the eaudio books in your collection?

Our stock specialists select all audiobooks based on value for money; on customer demand (driven by borrowing data, number of customer 'holds', number of Notify Me requests); staff book knowledge; special promotions, such as The Booker Prize longlist, Black History Month, LGBTQ+ History Month, upcoming library author events etc.

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

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