



My Ref: FOI 5811
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 following information for the last five financial years (2020-2025), broken down by year:

- 1. The number of LADO referrals, concerns and allegations relating to nursery settings**
- 2. Of these, how many allegations were recorded as substantiated**
- 3. How many of the referrals/allegations resulted in any action recorded by the LADO (e.g., internal disciplinary action, referral to Ofsted or DBS, or police involvement).**

I am requesting numerical totals only, and I am not seeking any personal data. If you are encountering practical difficulties in complying with this request, please contact me as soon as possible (in line with your section 16 duty to advise and assist requesters) so we can discuss the matter and if necessary, I can modify the request.

After considering your request 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.

In the last 5 financial years we have received 2254 enquiries and 814 referrals to LADO. Each record would need to be manually checked and would take at least 10 minutes to review therefore this would take around 511 hours' worth of staff time to complete.

However, since October 2025 the data is retrievable and we have had the below:

1. The number of LADO referrals, concerns and allegations relating to nursery settings

Referrals since October 2025 relating to nursery settings – 11

Enquiries since October 2025 relating to nursery settings – 22

2. Of these, how many allegations were recorded as substantiated

0 of these have been recorded as substantiated.

3. How many of the referrals/allegations resulted in any action recorded by the LADO (e.g., internal disciplinary action, referral to Ofsted or DBS, or police involvement).

5 out of the 11 referrals resulted in actions recorded by the LADO. These are 1 suspension to investigate and 4 referrals to OSTED.

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: -

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PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

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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