



My Ref: FOI 5817
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: -

Spend, volumes, and procurement routes (last three completed financial years: 2022/23–2024/25).

Please provide recorded information showing:

(a) total gross spend on home-to-school transport;

2022/23	£7,577,682
2023/24	£8,974,717
2024/25	£9,575,907

(b) number of pupils transported (mainstream and SEND, separately if held);

22/23:	19 Mainstream	801 SEND
23/24:	20 Mainstream	788 SEND
24/25:	28 Mainstream	900 SEND

(c) number of routes and vehicle types; and

22/23:	233 Routes – Mixed vehicles types. Taxi's, PSV, 16 Seat Minibus.
23/24:	238 Routes – Mixed vehicles types. Taxi's, PSV, 16 Seat Minibus
24/25:	251 Routes – Mixed vehicles types. Taxi's, PSV, 16 Seat Minibus

(d) proportion of annual spend by procurement route (e.g., open tender, DPS, framework, spot purchase), including any national frameworks used (e.g., CCS, YPO, NEPO).

All home-to-school transportation services that have been outsourced were procured using our internal Dynamic Purchasing Systems (DPS) advertised via the YORtender portal. Detailed annual expenditure figures are listed below.

22/23	: £4,066,027
23/24	: £4,454,601
24/25	: £4,470,443

Current contract register for home-to-school transport (live contracts/route lots). For each live contract or lot: supplier name; contract/lot or route ID; service description; start date; end date; extension options; annual value and total maximum value; procurement route used; and any linked framework/DPS reference.

The current DPS advert notices are here:

Find a Tender [Provision of Road Passenger Transport Services for Children and Adults DPS - Find a Tender](#)

Contracts finder: [Provision of Road Passenger Transport Services for Children and Adults DPS - Contracts Finder](#)

YORtender Notice: [Public quote/tender - Provision of Road Passenger Transport Services for Children and Adults DPS](#)

The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 do not require contracting authorities to publish notices when suppliers join a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS). The DPS must stay open throughout its term, admitting all economic operators who meet the selection criteria, but there is no obligation to announce each admission.

The Summer Refresh 2025 Mini Competition award is available to view on the Find a Tender Service : [Provision of Passenger Transport Services for Children & Adults – Dynamic Purchasing System \(DPS\) - Summer Refresh 2025 - Find a Tender](#)

Procurement activity and resourcing (2022/23–2024/25). Recorded counts of: procurement exercises and mini-competitions run; contract variations/renewals; single-tender actions/emergency bookings; average calendar days from advert to award; average number of bids per lot; and FTE staffing dedicated to home-to-school transport procurement/contract management (with role titles). Contract end date.

The following notices pertain to prior Dynamic Purchasing Systems (DPS) preceding the commencement of the current Dynamic Purchasing System on 21 February 2025:

[Public quote/tender - 46958 Provision of Road Passenger Transport Services for Children and Adults DPS](#)

[528113-2018 - Competition - TED](#)

[Home to School 2021-2022 - Various Routes V4 - Contracts Finder](#)

[Home to School 2021-2022 - Various Routes V3 - Contracts Finder](#)

Number of days from advert to award is dependent on the requirement timescales. The Council does not maintain records regarding the average number of bids per lot.

Please refer to the section above for information regarding mini competitions associated with the current DPS.

[Full Time Equivalent staffing dedicated to home-to-school transport procurement / contract management](#)

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The Home to School Transport service is delivered by the Council's Travel Assistance service. There are no posts dedicated solely to procurement or contract management for home-to-school transport.

Procurement, contract oversight and operational management are undertaken as part of wider service management roles. Relevant posts include:

- Group Manager – Travel Assistance
- Deputy Group Manager – Travel Assistance
- Travel Assistance Managers x 6
- Business support / administrative roles x 2

As these roles also cover wider service responsibilities, the Council does not hold recorded information setting out a discrete Full Time Equivalent (FTE) allocation solely attributable to procurement or contract management for home-to-school transport.

The Council does not hold staffing information for external suppliers.

Operational delivery workforce (Driver/Attendants and Passenger Assistants)

In addition to the above roles, the Home to School Transport service is supported by a Council-employed operational workforce of Driver/Attendants and Passenger Assistants, including relief staff.

Based on current staffing records, the service employs approximately 230 Driver/Attendants and Passenger Assistants. This figure represents headcount rather than Full Time Equivalent (FTE) and excludes vacant posts.

The majority of these roles are part-time or variable-hours posts, with working hours aligned to transport routes, pupil needs and service demand. Because of the variable nature of these roles, the Council does not hold a single aggregated FTE figure for this workforce. Staffing information is held at individual post level within HR and operational systems rather than as a consolidated FTE total.

The Council does not hold a recorded document showing an overall FTE figure. Any calculation of an overall FTE figure would require the creation of new information, which the Council is not required to do under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Digital systems and integrations in use. List of systems used across the home-to-school transport workflow (e-sourcing/procurement, route planning/optimisation, contract management, compliance/DBS, operator performance/telematics), including for each: supplier/product and version; contract term; annual licence/hosting cost; whether APIs or bulk data export are supported (yes/no); and any held integration diagrams or interface control documents.

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E-Procurement Software

Barnsley Council utilises the YORtender portal for the procurement of its Dynamic Purchasing Systems. The existing active DPS was established via YORtender, and all subsequent mini-competitions and call-off processes are conducted electronically through this platform.

<https://yortender.eu-supply.com>

The contract details are here: [Contract](#)

Route Planning/Optimisation Software

QRoutes Ltd is utilised for the planning of statutory transportation services.

Contract Start Date: 1st October 2024

Contract End Date: 30th September 2026

Contract Value: £41,500.00

The contract details are here: eu-supply.com

The service does not hold records detailing the specific software version number. The service does not hold information relating to APIs, system integrations, or interface control documentation for QRoutes.

Contract Management Solution

The Council has procured a contract management solution and is currently in the initial phase of implementation.

Contract details can be accessed here : [Provision of a Contract Management Solution - Contracts Finder](#)

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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