



My Ref: FOI6110
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: -

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information relating to children and young people with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans.

For the purposes of this request:

- Academic years run 1 September to 31 August
- "2020/21" means 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 (and so on for subsequent years)
- Where "the most recent available date" is asked for, please use the latest date for which data is held
- Where data is not held in the exact format requested, please provide the closest equivalent with a note explaining what has been provided

Q1. For each of the last 5 academic years (2020/21 to 2024/25), please provide the number of:

(a) EHC needs assessment requests received

2020/21 – 439
2021/22 – 535
2022/23 – 615
2023/24 – 707
2024/25 – 746

(b) EHC plans issued following assessment

2020/21 – 289
2021/22 – 307
2022/23 – 318
2023/24 – 427
2024/25 – 485

(c) EHC plans issued within the 20-week statutory timescale (including any permissible extensions) – for 2020 and 2021 we do not have this data recorded

by month to enable us to calculate academic year. Please see published SEN2 data which will provide it by calendar year for you. <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-health-and-care-plans/2025>

2020/21 – Data not recorded by month
2021/22 – Data not recorded by month
2022/23 – 130
2023/24 – 224
2024/25 – 280

(d) EHC needs assessment requests refused If held, please also provide the longest number of weeks taken to issue an EHCP in each year.

2020/21 – 34
2021/22 – 44
2022/23 – 40
2023/24 – 55
2024/25 – 97

Q2. For each of the last 5 academic years, please provide:

(a) Number of SENDIST tribunal appeals registered against the authority

2020/21 – 34
2021/22 – 44
2022/23 – 40
2023/24 – 55
2024/25 – 97

(b) Number proceeding to a full hearing – data not recorded

(c) Number resolved before hearing – data not recorded

(d) Number decided in favour of the parent/carer – outcome is recorded but data not recorded prior to June 2024. For 2024/25 there are 5 tribunals recorded as having an outcome in favour of parent/carer. The majority of tribunals are resolved via Consent Order.

The data for b, c and d is not recorded for all appeals. Whilst we do hold this data, to check each appeal would take approximately 15 minutes per appeal and therefore exceed the maximum time for a freedom of information request.

Q3. As of the most recent available date, please provide:

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.

(a) Number of full-time equivalent Educational Psychologists employed by the authority

2025/26: 7.6 full time equivalent Educational Psychologists employed by the authority

2024/25: 7.8 full time equivalent Educational Psychologists employed by the authority

(b) Number of vacant Educational Psychologist posts

2025/26: 3.8 full time equivalent vacant posts

2024/25: 3.6 full time equivalent vacant posts

Q4. If recorded, what is the current average waiting time (in weeks) for an Educational Psychologist assessment? Please specify how the waiting time is measured.

There is currently no wait time for Educational Psychologist assessments completed as part of the statutory EHC needs assessment process.

Q5. As of the most recent available date, how many children with an EHCP are awaiting a specialist school placement arranged by the authority? Of these, how many have been waiting more than 6 months?

As of 09/06/2026, 165 awaiting specialist placements. 84 have been waiting for more than 6 months.

Q6. As of the most recent available date: Data as at end of May 2026

(a) Number of overdue EHCP annual reviews – 70 EHCPs had no meeting currently booked in

(b) Longest overdue annual review (in months) – 9 months

Q7. For each of the last 5 academic years, how many children with an EHCP were placed in alternative provision? If recorded, please provide the number where this placement was due to a lack of suitable school place.

January 2022 return - 2

January 2023 return - 64

January 2024 return - 100

January 2025 return - 148

January 2026 return - 218

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.

In order to provide 5 years worth of data, data is provided from the statutory Alternative Provision return and therefore excludes Pupil Referral Units. Reason for Alternative Provision is not recorded in a reportable format. The reason is recorded on individual pupil files but to collate this would exceed the maximum timeframe for the request, with each check taking approximately 15 minutes.

Q8. For each of the last 5 academic years, what was the total spend on SEND home-to-school transport (including any contracted provision)?

2021/22	5,688,558
2022/23	7,577,682
2023/24	8,974,717
2024/25	9,575,907
2025/26	12,063,684

Q9. For each of the last 5 academic years, please provide:

- (a) High Needs Block DSG allocation
- (b) Actual High Needs Block spend
- (c) Resulting surplus or deficit

	(a)	(b)	(c) *
Financial Year	High Needs Block Allocation £'000	Actual High Needs Block spend £'000	Actual HN block surplus (-)/deficit (+) £'000
2021/22	23,370	31,060	7,690
2022/23	28,367	34,369	6,002
2023/24	32,261	37,459	5,198
2024/25	34,127	40,761	6,634
2025/26	37,638	48,662	11,024

* Difference between High Needs DfE Allocation and Actual spend.

Q10. For each of the last 5 academic years, how many fixed-term exclusions were issued to pupils with an EHCP? This data is published annually by DfE and can be found here: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/suspensions-and-permanent-exclusions-in-england/2024-25-autumn-term>

Q11. For each of the last 5 academic years, please provide:

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

- (a) Number of SEND-related complaints received
 (b) Number escalated to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman
 (c) Number upheld or partially upheld by the Ombudsman

The information in relation to your request is not held in a way that would allow us to answer question A as you have submitted. To interrogate and collate the information in this way would meet the Section 12 (1) threshold. However, to be helpful we have provided below the number of complaints received by the Business Unit, Education, Early Start and Prevention, for which SEND related complaints will be contained within, and as reported in the financial year the data was created and published (April to March). Therefore, please note the numbers reported below do not relate to SEND complaints alone.

Year	Number of complaints	Number of LGSCO contacts	LGSCO outcomes*
2021-22	26	5	• 1 council to pursue complaint • 1 linked to ongoing investigation • 3 fault with injustice
2022-23	19	3	• 1 not enough evidence of fault • 1 outside jurisdiction • 1 pending (at the time)
2023-24	38	11	• 4 council to pursue complaint • 2 not enough evidence of fault • 1 outside jurisdiction • 1 no fault • 3 pending (at the time)
2024-25	38	7	• 1 Council to pursue complaint • 2 fault with injustice • 1 outside jurisdiction • 3 pending (at the time)
2025-26	Not yet published by BMBC**		

*Further information can also be sourced on the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's website at www.lgo.gov.uk

**This information will be published in a future report which will be made available on the Council's Website.

Please provide the data in spreadsheet format where possible.

If any part of this request exceeds the cost limit, please advise how the scope may be refined.

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

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

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