



My Ref: FOI 5589
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: -

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information. If this full request goes over the cost limit, please answer the questions in numerical order until the cost limit is reached. Please may you provide me with:

Q1.

The total number of child relinquishment requests per year for each of the last ten years.

For the avoidance of doubt, this refers to instances where birth or adoptive parents contacted the local authority requesting that Children’s Social Care Services assume care responsibility for a child.

20 Total placements since 2015 under placement codes A3 and A4 (placed for adoption with consent).

Breakdown by year unavailable to protect confidentiality, please be aware that as Child Relinquishment requests themselves are not held in a reportable format there may be relevant individuals missing from the above figure.

Q2.

For the calendar years 2023 and 2024, and for 2025 if available:

• The number of referrals received by Children’s Social Care Services where domestic abuse was recorded as a factor; and If 2025 figures are incomplete, please provide whatever data is currently available and specify the date range that the data covers.

Year	Total Referrals	Concerning CYP
2023	480	973
2024	572	1095
2025	463	855
Grand Total	1515	2923

Q3.

For each of the last five years, please provide either:

- The annual staff (or ideally just social worker, if these figure exist) sickness or absence rate already held by the authority (for example, percentage of working time lost), or
- If no such percentage is routinely recorded, the total number of working days lost to sickness/absence and the total number of contracted working days for Children’s Social Care Services staff in each year.

Please provide whichever of the above is held in recorded form.

Please see below the number of days lost due to sickness absence. We are unable to provide the contracted working days lost. Figures include all employees within Children’s Social Care for each of the last 5 years:

2025 - 5,240
 2024 - 5,071.5
 2023 - 4,235.5
 2022 - 5,165
 2021 - 4,761

Q4.

The average caseload, and the average number of children (if different) held by qualified social care workers in:

- Frontline child protection assessment teams; and
- Safeguarding teams for each of the last five years.

Barnsley does not have delineated teams for the above, the closest analogues are believed to be the Assessment and Children and Young Person Teams (CYPT).

Year	Assessments caseload	CYPT Caseload
2021	22.5	25.5
2022	16.2	20.5
2023	13.3	16.3
2024	18.4	17.3
2025	16.5	16

The above is average caseloads on 30th September each year, as per the CSWW return. Historic caseloads over the year are not available prior to 2025 without additional work.

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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