



My Ref: FOI 6211
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 request information regarding Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) referrals originating from Children's Social Services.

Please provide the following information covering the last three complete financial years (2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26), broken down by year: Total Referrals: The total number of LADO referrals received by the local authority originating specifically from children's social services. Keyword/Category Search: The number of these LADO referrals where the recorded system notes, category, or referral reason contains the terms "parental alienation", "alienating behaviours", or "alienation". Specific Refinement: Out of the cases identified in Question 2, the number of cases where: The subject of the alienation allegation was the mother. A Family Court fact-finding or final judgment explicitly established parental alienation as the sole or primary safeguarding risk/concern. If a manual review of all files is required to answer Question 3 and this would exceed the statutory cost limit, please prioritise answering questions 1 and 2, and provide any high-level aggregated data or electronic system-search results available for Question 3.

We do not record this information.

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

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