



London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
14 August 2019
Our ref: 5544480

Thank you for your request received on 13 August 2019, for the following information:

The business rates information on your website does not indicate whether a property is empty or occupied. Please could you provide this information in an excel spreadsheet.

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds the information you requested.

However, we believe that the exemptions detailed below apply to some/all the information you requested and so we are withholding that information. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

The business rates information on your website does not indicate whether a property is empty or occupied. Please could you provide this information in an excel spreadsheet.

We consider that the absolute exemption set out in Section 21 (Information accessible by other means) applies to the information requested because the information requested is already reasonably accessible elsewhere.

The business rates information on your website does not indicate whether a property is empty or occupied. Please could you provide this information in an excel spreadsheet. (I have emailed twice before about this issue, on the 5th of June and the 9th of July but although I have had acknowledgement emails, I have received no reply.)

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds the information you requested.

However, we consider that the absolute exemption set out in Section 21 (Information accessible by other means) applies as the information requested is already reasonably accessible elsewhere.

This information is available on our Open Barnet data portal using the following links:

<https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/businessratesregister> - **this shows occupied properties**

<https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/empty-commercial-properties> - **this shows unoccupied properties**

If you do not have access to the internet at home, you may be able to use facilities at your local library.

Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.