



Assurance Group  
London Borough of Barnet,  
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,  
London NW9 4EW  
15 August 2019  
Our ref: 5500756

Thank you for your request received on 29 July 2019, for the following information:

**This is an information request to establish how many press officers your organisation employs, and your spending on speeches. This is for years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19.**

**Please note, if your organisation has taken part in a merger with any other local authority since the relevant timeframe, please include the relevant data for that 'legacy council'.**

**Please include the following information:**

- ☐ **How many members of staff work as press officers in each of 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19?**
- ☐ **How much was spent on speeches and presentations with outside bodies in each of 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19?**

**The figure should include any members of staff whose main duty is press relations, public relations, communications and social media. Your response should include both full-time and part-time members of staff, as well as any on any irregular contracts, such as consultants.**

**Speeches and presentations with outside bodies includes, but is not limited to, firms who provide strategic communications, public affairs, advertising and consultancy services. The speeches and presentations includes only those that were commissioned by your authority, with the intention of your authority's staff delivering the speech or presentation.**

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

## **Response**

The council holds the information requested and it is attached/ the answers to your questions are below

***This is an information request to establish how many press officers your organisation employs, and your spending on speeches. This is for years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19.***

***Please note, if your organisation has taken part in a merger with any other local authority since the relevant timeframe, please include the relevant data for that 'legacy council'.***

***Please include the following information:***

***□ How many members of staff work as press officers in each of 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19?***

- 2016/17 – three
- 2017/18 – three
- 2018/19 - three

***□ How much was spent on speeches and presentations with outside bodies in each of 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19?***

Zero

***The figure should include any members of staff whose main duty is press relations, public relations, communications and social media. Your response should include both full-time and part-time members of staff, as well as any on any irregular contracts, such as consultants.***

***Speeches and presentations with outside bodies includes, but is not limited to, firms who provide strategic communications, public affairs, advertising and consultancy services. The speeches and presentations includes only those that were commissioned by your authority, with the intention of your authority's staff delivering the speech or presentation.***

## **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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.org.uk)). There is no charge for making an appeal.