



London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
6 September 2019
Our ref: 5561513

Thank you for your request received on 19 August 2019, for the following information:

Please can you provide me with:

- 1. The names of the schools in your area that contain asbestos. Ideally, I would like this broken down into type of asbestos (white, brown and/or blue).**
- 2. The date and outcome of the last independent audit or inspection of each of these schools Asbestos Management Plans.**
- 3. The details of any reported incidents of asbestos exposure in these schools between 2010 and 2019.**
- 4. Details of any improvement or prohibition notice served or guidance issued by the HSE in relation to the management of asbestos in schools in your area in the last 5 years.**
- 5. The number of school employees (existing and retired staff to include teaching staff, school support staff and caretakers, etc) and ex-pupils that have pursued a claim against the Council for exposure to asbestos within a school in your area.**
- 6. The number of these claims that have been settled.**
- 7. The amount of money that has been paid in settlement of these claims (with and without your authority accepting responsibility).**
- 8. The details of training offered to school governors, teachers or similar who carry out an inspection.**
- 9. The number of 'System-Built Schools' in your area.**
- 10. The number of schools that have dealt with a leaky roof or a broken window or a damaged wall panel, during the past 5 years. (i.e. where the fabric of the building has been disturbed).**
- 11. Finally, details of when and why you have commissioned emergency asbestos air testing across your school's estate.**

I understand that under the Act I am entitled to a response within 20 working days of your receipt of this request. Some parts of the request may be easier to answer than others. Should this be the case, I request that you release information as soon as possible.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the Act. I will also expect you to release all non-exempt material. I reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to charge excessive fees.

I would prefer to receive the information electronically.

If you require any clarification, please contact me in accordance with your duty under Section 16 to provide advice and assistance if you find any aspect of this Fol request problematic.

We have processed this request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Response

I am writing to inform you that we have searched our records and although we hold some of the information requested.

The responsibility for the council maintained schools (community schools) has been delegated to headteacher according to Barnet corporate arrangement.

All other schools i.e. Voluntary Aided, Academy are responsible to manage asbestos management on their site, the council do not have central system that holds information on asbestos in all the schools in one place. Where we do not hold information you will need to contact each schools directly.

Schools (including academies) are considered under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to be public authorities in their own rights, and are subject to the FOIA in the same way as the council (albeit with different timescales to meet). It is therefore correct that the council does not hold this information, and that individual schools would need to be contacted.

Please see the link below:

https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizenhome/directories/Directories.html?_pecid=373ac375-9115-4d18-8a58-ce6098691e0a&directoryId=54e3852a84ae7c28725849d1&list=true

We have provided answers to your request below showing where we do not hold the information requested.

1. The names of the schools in your area that contain asbestos. Ideally, I would like this broken down into type of asbestos (white, brown and/or blue).

See attached spreadsheet

2. The date and outcome of the last independent audit or inspection of each of these schools Asbestos Management Plans.

The schools would be able to provide information on last independent audit commissioned by their site and the London Borough of Barnet would not hold this information. The ShaW team carries out a assurance review of compliance checks on the site and asbestos is small part of it. The ShaW team also carries out a asbestos management audit according to audit programme in the community schools and in the schools who have SLA with the ShaW team. The asbestos management audit outcome from the schools we have reviewed in last 5 years have always been over 75%. See attached spreadsheet.

3. The details of any reported incidents of asbestos exposure in these schools between 2010 and 2019.

No asbestos exposure incidents have been reported to Barnet Health and Safety Unit from employees or pupils in the schools between 2010-2019.

4. Details of any improvement or prohibition notice served or guidance issued by the HSE in relation to the management of asbestos in schools in your area in the last 5 years.

No incidents in the last 5 years.

5. The number of school employees (existing and retired staff to include teaching staff, school support staff and caretakers, etc) and ex-pupils that have pursued a claim against the Council for exposure to asbestos within a school in your area.

None

6. The number of these claims that have been settled.

N/A

7. The amount of money that has been paid in settlement of these claims (with and without your authority accepting responsibility).

N/A

8. The details of training offered to school governors, teachers or similar who carry out an inspection.

All the community schools and other schools in the borough were offered an opportunity to attend the Asbestos awareness training based on the CAR 2012 in 2013/2014 following the notice from HSE.

9. The number of 'System-Built Schools' in your area.

–Would planning/ BC hold this

10. The number of schools that have dealt with a leaky roof or a broken window or a damaged wall panel, during the past 5 years. (i.e. where the fabric of the building has been disturbed).

– CSG Estate and the project team (contact Alison Dawes in Education & Skills and Charles Parish (charles.parish@capita.co.uk) may be able to provide this information where they have been contacted directly by the schools. This is will be related to leaking roof and damaged roof etc.

11. Finally, details of when and why you have commissioned emergency asbestos air testing across your school's estate.

No emergency asbestos air testing carried out

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.