

30 August 2019  
Our ref: 5532416

Thank you for your request received on 7 August 2019, for the following information:

***1. Can you confirm how long, in minutes, a community group such as a Civic Society is permitted to speak at your local council's Planning Committee? (By 'Planning Committee' we mean your local authority's committee of elected members which determines planning applications. It may be known by a different name in your local authority).***

***2. Is there a limit on the number of registered speakers permitted to speak at your Planning Committee? If yes, please specify the maximum number of speakers allowed.***

***3. Is there a limit on the total time allowed for registered speakers? If yes, please provide details of the time restriction.***

***4. Are your Planning Committee procedure rules publicly available online? If yes, please provide the weblink***

**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.

***1. Can you confirm how long, in minutes, a community group such as a Civic Society is permitted to speak at your local council's Planning Committee? (By 'Planning Committee' we mean your local authority's committee of elected members which determines planning applications. It may be known by a different name in your local authority).***

This information is already published within the Council's Constitution, Article 3 – Residents and Public Participation (section 3.6)

<http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/documents/s52630/Appendix%20B%20-%20Article%203%20Residents%20and%20Public%20Participation%20Tracked.pdf>

**2. Is there a limit on the number of registered speakers permitted to speak at your Planning Committee? If yes, please specify the maximum number of speakers allowed.**

This information is already published within the Council's Constitution, Article 3 – Residents and Public Participation (section 3.6)

<http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/documents/s52630/Appendix%20B%20-%20Article%203%20Residents%20and%20Public%20Participation%20Tracked.pdf>

**3. Is there a limit on the total time allowed for registered speakers? If yes, please provide details of the time restriction.**

This information is already published within the Council's Constitution, Article 3 – Residents and Public Participation (section 3.6)

<http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/documents/s52630/Appendix%20B%20-%20Article%203%20Residents%20and%20Public%20Participation%20Tracked.pdf>

**4. Are your Planning Committee procedure rules publicly available online? If yes, please provide the weblink.**

We do not have Planning Committee procedure rules but we do have some guidance at which is available at <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning/find-and-comment-planning-applications>

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.

### **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.