

13 November 2019

Our ref: 5730044

Thank you for your request received on 17 October 2019, for the following information:

I would like to request the following under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

- (1) What has the budget allocated to libraries in your local authority been in each year from 2009 to 2018?**
- (2) How much has been spent on security for libraries in each of those years?**
- (3) How many libraries were transferred from council management to that of a private company during this period?**
- (4) Are there plans to outsource management of any libraries currently run and managed by the council?**
- (5) How many former library premises were sold off by the council to a private company during this period?**
- (6) Are there any libraries in your local authority area which are now entirely run and owned by a private company, and if so, could you please provide details?**

Please provide the information in accessible excel format, with totals tallied and presented separately for each year.

I am confident the questions above should not violate the cost restrictions set out in s. 12 FOIA 2000 and s.3 of the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. There is a clear public interest in disclosing the information on transparency and accountability grounds.

For the purpose of clarity, I would like to request that any information exempt from disclosure under s.40 FOIA 2000 is shared in a redacted or anonymised format.

If you have any questions, please let me know and I'd be happy to discuss.

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

Response

I am writing to inform you that we have searched our records and although we hold some of the information requested, some is not held by London Borough of Barnet.

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

I would like to request the following under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1) What has the budget allocated to libraries in your local authority been in each year from 2009 to 2018?

Year	Budget
2009/10	£7,314,110
2010/11	£6,723,800
2011/12	£6,440,150
2012/13	£6,435,808
2013/14	£4,588,404
2014/15	£4,558,050
2015/16	£4,602,320
2016/17	£4,576,405
2017/18	£3,423,970
2018/19	£3,536,150

(2) How much has been spent on security for libraries in each of those years?

Year	Budget
2009/10	Information not held
2010/11	Information not held
2011/12	Information not held
2012/13	Information being retrieved from storage
2014/15	Information being retrieved from storage
2015/16	Information being retrieved from storage
2016/17	Information being retrieved from storage
2017/18	£250,255.86*
2018/19	£197,543.04*

*not part of budget listed under Q1. Paid for from transformation budget.

With regard to the **information being retrieved from storage** as stated above, we are seeking a response from a 3rd party who hold our archived invoice files so we would therefore be able to provide these details at a later date once it has been collated.

(3) How many libraries were transferred from council management to that of a private company during this period?

None. However, there are six public libraries in Barnet run by community organisations with charitable status. Four of these remain part of the statutory network.

(4) Are there plans to outsource management of any libraries currently run and managed by the council?

No

(5) How many former library premises were sold off by the council to a private company during this period?

None

(6) Are there any libraries in your local authority area which are now entirely run and owned by a private company, and if so, could you please provide details?

No.

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.