



London Borough of Barnet,  
2 Bristol Avenue,  
Colindale,  
London NW9 4EW  
20 November 2019  
Our ref: 5795873

Thank you for your request received on 14 November 2019, for the following information:

I am writing to make an open government request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please send me:

**[Information request - 1]**

**An asset list of all current petrol and battery powered handheld machinery used within your inventory with information about the make and model numbers of units and age per machine. I would like to request that this information is focused on brush cutters, blowers, chainsaws, hedge trimmers, kombi tools, pole pruners, backpack blowers and any other handheld machinery within your assets.**

**[Information request - 1a]**

**If the council has not purchased any new battery powered handheld outdoor machinery when the need to buy more equipment has arisen (since July 2018), what was the reason to continue purchasing petrol powered handheld machinery?**

**[Information request - 2]**

**The total amount of fuel in litres purchased since 24th July 2018 for use in two-stroke outdoor powered equipment as listed in Information Request 1.**

**[Information request - 3]**

**How often are the machines listed in Information Request 1 regularly serviced ?**

**[Information request - 4]**

**How many schools and health trusts facilities are maintained using the equipment listed in Information Request 1 for tasks such as leaf blowing, tree surgery, brush cutting and hedge trimming?**

**[Information request - 5]**

**Do you keep records of usage of machinery for the purpose of hand arm vibration regulations, if so please can you detail the hours of usage associated with each machine as well as how many people are trained to operate these machines for council related work throughout the year?**

**[Information request - 6]**

**Does the local authority monitor the occupational health risks associated with operator's exposure to the inhalation of Particulate Matter (PM2.5) emissions from two-stroke machinery?**

**If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please**

provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined I would be grateful for any further advice and assistance.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone and I will be very happy to clarify what I am asking for and discuss the request, my details are outlined below.

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

***[Information request - 1] An asset list of all current petrol and battery powered handheld machinery used within your inventory with information about the make and model numbers of units and age per machine. I would like to request that this information is focused on brush cutters, blowers, chainsaws, hedge trimmers, kombi tools, pole pruners, backpack blowers and any other handheld machinery within your assets.***

We use BLOWER BACKPACK Stihl BR420, BLOWER BACKPACK Stihl BR600, BLOWER HAND BG86, Chainsaw Stihl MS240-MS260-MS261, HEDGE CUTTERS LR Stihl HL 100, HEDGE CUTTERS LR Stihl HL 95, HEDGE CUTTERS Stihl HS81R, HEDGE CUTTERS Stihl HS82RCE, Pole Saw Stihl HT101, Stihl FS111 Brushcutter 4-Mix, Strimmer Cowhorn FS100,

***[Information request - 1a] If the council has not purchased any new battery powered handheld outdoor machinery when the need to buy more equipment has arisen (since July 2018), what was the reason to continue purchasing petrol powered handheld machinery?***

We will be purchasing some battery operated machinery soon and we will trial and use and evaluate during the 2020 grass cutting season

***[Information request - 2] The total amount of fuel in litres purchased since 24th July 2018 for use in two-stroke outdoor powered equipment as listed in Information Request 1 .***

From 1<sup>st</sup> July until 29/10/19 we purchased 2847 litres of petrol for grounds maintenance operations , this was used in both 2 stroke and 4 stroke machinery.

***[Information request - 3] How often are the machines listed in Information Request 1 regularly serviced ?***

All machines are serviced annually and are inspected before use and cleaned and greased weekly they are also repaired as and when required.

***[Information request - 4] How many schools and health trusts facilities are maintained using the equipment listed in Information Request 1 for tasks such as leaf blowing, tree surgery, brush cutting and hedge trimming?***

We maintain 2 schools

***[Information request - 5] Do you keep records of usage of machinery for the purpose of hand arm vibration regulations, if so please can you detail the hours of usage associated with each machine as well as how many people are trained to operate these machines for council related work throughout the year?***

We have over 60 staff who are trained to operate our machinery, we carry out annual staff health assessments to monitor HAVS , We have operators manuals for machinery which includes Havs information and we periodically use Havi meters which are attached to machinery this supplies operators hand arm vibration exposure levels in points and hours of use .

***[Information request - 6] Does the local authority monitor the occupational health risks associated with operator's exposure to the inhalation of Particulate Matter (PM2.5) emissions from two-stroke machinery? If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.***

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](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.