

Assurance Group London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, London NW9 4EW 10 December 2019 Our ref: 5856532

Thank you for your request received on 3 December 2019, for the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would be interested in any information held by your organisation regarding my request. If you need further clarification please contact me by email. I would like the most recent up to date list of businesses and charities (LLP's, PLC's and Ltd) who have become liable for business rates from the 15th Nov-30th Nov 19. Please include the full business name and full address of the property they became liable, the date they became liable and also the type of property.

I would like the information to be emailed to me in electronic form on an excel spreadsheet please.

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 withold any information or to charge excessive fees.

I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request. I look forward to your response within 20 working days as outlined by the statute.

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 exemption detailed below appies to all the information you requested and so we are withholding that information. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

## Dear council

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regards

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.

This information is available on our Open Barnet data portal using the following links:

https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/businessratesregister - this shows occupied properties

<u>https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/empty-commercial-properties</u> - *this shows unoccupied properties* 

## **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. <u>http://open.barnet.gov.uk/</u>

## 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 <u>www.ico.org.uk</u>

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: <u>foi@barnet.gov.uk</u>. 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.