

20 December 2019

Our ref: 5899832

Thank you for your request received on 18 December 2019, for the following information:

I'm researching voting trends over the last few years in the U.K. and paying particular attention to numbers of spoilt ballots. I'm trying to get a picture of how many people spoiled their ballots nationwide this election. I can't get figures for Chipping Barnet, Hendon or Finchley and Golders Green online.

I wondered if it would be possible for you to send me that information, please? It would be so very helpful

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.

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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 (see links below).

<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/ELpO3WOWsAE9Ztl.jpg:large>

<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/ELpM7nFWsAAQm7j.jpg:large>

<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/ELpGpymXsAAE9Vt.jpg:large>

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.