

4 February 2020
Our ref: 5913832

Thank you for your request received on 30 December 2019, for the following information:

I am getting in touch to request information regarding invasive species within the Council's borough, as provided for under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and The Aarhus Convention where relevant. By invasive species, I refer to an invasive non-native species whose introduction and/or spread threaten biological diversity or have other unforeseen impacts, as defined in DEFRA's strategy in 2015, or its equivalent, invasive alien species, as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity. I would like to know:

- * Which invasive species are present, and if possible, the abundance of each, by number of individuals or area covered, whichever is more appropriate**
- * The date they were first recorded as present, and the date they were eradicated (if this has occurred).**
- * The location of each invasive species within the borough**
- * Any invasive species that is predicted to arrive in the borough within the next three decades that the council has made preparations against**
- * The method, and cost, of eradication where this has occurred**

If possible, I would like this data to be presented within an excel spreadsheet. I would appreciate if you could confirm receipt of this request, and will clarify any points that you need any more information for. Any response should be sent to this email address, and I look forward to hearing from you.

We have processed this request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Response

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below

- * Which invasive species are present, and if possible, the abundance of each, by number of individuals or area covered, whichever is more appropriate***
- * The date they were first recorded as present, and the date they were eradicated (if this has occurred).***
- * The location of each invasive species within the borough***

Please see attached spreadsheet. We are able to disclose the general area (i.e. the Ward) in which the species was reported.

- Unfortunately, recording methods have changed several times and the information is from 1 st January 2015 to 15 th January 2020 only.
- We do not hold information on the size of the area covered by invasive non-native species.
- This information relates only to private owned land and not council owned land.
- Information not held in the format requested. I am unable to provide information on eradication dates as treatment will often last for several years after the works have started. As long as the owner has confirmed to us that works have started to eradicate and we are satisfied it has and it is no longer growing across the boundary we do not keep the case open. We would advise the complainant to contact us again in future if it continues to cross onto their boundary and reinvestigate it.

**** Any invasive species that is predicted to arrive in the borough within the next three decades that the council has made preparations against***

We do not hold any information on the prediction's for invasive non-native species for the next three decades.

**** The method, and cost, of eradication where this has occurred***

If an invasive species is crossing a boundary we firstly ask for the owners to undertake the work informally, they can do this themselves by cutting and spraying into the stem or they can use a contractor. The Council would not record the method, and cost of eradication used by an owner.

The only time that the Council would record this and be aware of costs is if we served a formal notice and it was ignored, at this point we may undertake the works in default. In this case we would understand the costs as we would employ the contractor to complete the works and put a charge on the property. We haven't needed to complete works in default on the cases attached so no further information is held.

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.