



RE Highways Network Management,
Colindale Offices,
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW
10 February 2020
Our ref: 5962964

Thank you for your request received on 13 January 2020, for the following information:

Dear FOI team,

Could you please provide answers to the following queries?

For the purpose of these questions, please consider all references to a 'pothole' to be defined as any physical defect in the surface of the road which potentially poses a hazard to road users, such as potholes, sunken manhole covers, cracks in the tarmac or any other defect.

1.

a. How many potholes were reported to the London Borough of Barnet in each of the past five years for which data is available?

b. How many of those potholes reported to the London Borough of Barnet, in each of the past five years for which data is available, failed to meet the required intervention criteria, as set by the London Borough of Barnet, due to insufficient depth, width or other factor?

Please provide answers for each year individually. If it is not possible to provide data for the past five years for which data is available, please provide it for the last full year for which data is available.

2.

a. Does the London Borough of Barnet set target repair times depending on the seriousness of an identified pothole/defect?

b. How many potholes/defects were repaired by the London Borough of Barnet in each of the past five years for which data is available?

c. Of those potholes repaired, how many were repaired within the London Borough of Barnet's set target time, for each of the past five years for which data is available?

Please provide answers for each year individually. If it is not possible to provide data for the past five years for which data is available, please provide it for the last full year for which data is available.

3.

a. How many miles of highway is the London Borough of Barnet responsible for maintaining?

b. How many full-time equivalent staff does the London Borough of Barnet currently employ to inspect its highway network to identify and classify highway defects or potential highway defects?

c. How many full-time equivalent staff did the London Borough of Barnet directly employ to inspect its highway network to identify and classify highway defects on the 1st of January for each of the past four years (1/1/2016, 1/1/2017, 1/1/2018, 1/1/2019)

Please provide answers for each year individually. If it is not possible to provide data for the past four years for which data is available, please provide it for the last full year for which data is available.

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

Response

1. a. How many potholes were reported to the London Borough of Barnet in each of the past five years for which data is available?

- 2015 – 1788
- 2016 – 1685
- 2017 – 1927
- 2018 – 2650
- 2019 – 2820

b. How many of those potholes reported to the London Borough of Barnet, in each of the past five years for which data is available, failed to meet the required intervention criteria, as set by the London Borough of Barnet, due to insufficient depth, width or other factor?

Please provide answers for each year individually. If it is not possible to provide data for the past five years for which data is available, please provide it for the last full year for which data is available.

We are refusing your request under section 12 because we estimate that compliance with your request will exceed the "appropriate limit" under section 12. The appropriate limit is £450 which is equivalent to 18 hours at £25 per hour. The per hour figure is set by Regulations rather than actual salary paid to any officers handling requests. The appropriate limit includes the time it will take the council to discover if it holds the information requested, to locate it, extract it and collate it as well as putting it into any particular format requested by the requester.

We have calculated that it will take approx 240 hours to comply with your request. Our calculation is as follows:

9572 total reported potholes – would have to go through each works order individually – 1 minutes per pothole = 160 hours

a. Does the London Borough of Barnet set target repair times depending on the seriousness of an identified pothole/defect?

- Intervention level potholes – 40mm in depth – are to be repaired within 24 hours of raising

b. How many potholes/defects were repaired by the London Borough of Barnet in each of the past five years for which data is available?

- 2015 – 1666
- 2016 – 2520
- 2017 – 776
- 2018 – 1609
- 2019 – 1350

c. Of those potholes repaired, how many were repaired within the London Borough of Barnet's set target time, for each of the past five years for which data is available?

We are refusing your request under section 12 because we estimate that compliance with your request will exceed the "appropriate limit" under section 12. The appropriate limit is £450 which is equivalent to 18 hours at £25 per hour. The per hour figure is set by Regulations rather than actual salary paid to any officers handling requests. The appropriate limit includes the time it will take the council to discover if it holds the information requested, to locate it, extract it and collate it as well as putting it into any particular format requested by the requester.

We have calculated that it will take approx 240 hours to comply with your request. Our calculation is as follows:

7921 potholes – would have to go through each works order individually – 2 minutes per pothole = 132 hours

3. a. How many miles of highway is the London Borough of Barnet responsible for maintaining?

- 422 miles

b. How many full-time equivalent staff does the London Borough of Barnet currently employ to inspect its highway network to identify and classify highway defects or potential highway defects?

- 5 Highways Inspectors

c. How many full-time equivalent staff did the London Borough of Barnet directly employ to inspect its highway network to identify and classify highway defects on the 1st of January for each of the past four years (1/1/2016, 1/1/2017, 1/1/2018, 1/1/2019)

- 5 Highways Inspectors

Advice and Assistance

If you have an enquiry about a specific pothole then it may be possible to provide this.

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.