



London Borough of Barnet,  
2 Bristol Avenue,  
Colindale,  
London NW9 4EW  
3 March 2020  
Our ref: 6045688

Thank you for your request received on 4 February 2020, for the following information:

**Comer Group rent their lands at North London Business Park to accommodate the various Social Care Teams I understand that the rent from three leases granted in 2007 and 2008 that LBB has paid a total of £9,123,531 in rent. What comparisons were carried out with competitors prior to granting the contract to the Comers? Why has there not been a rent review since 2014/2015 and what comparisons have been carried out with competitors? I understand that while there are 153 Spaces on North London Business Park site, none were purchased for social care teams. Where are these 'sufficient parking spaces as part of current lease'? How do you know this number is sufficient?**

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

## **Response**

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds the information you requested. However, we consider that the following exceptions apply to some of the information requested. The remaining information is not withheld and is below.

***Comer Group rent their lands at North London Business Park to accommodate the various Social Care Teams I understand that the rent from three leases granted in 2007 and 2008 that LBB has paid a total of £9,123,531 in rent. What comparisons were carried out with competitors prior to granting the contract to the Comers?***

This will take longer than 20 hours to answer as this information is more than 12 years old and not stored on our current systems. See Refusal Notice below.

***Why has there not been a rent review since 2014/2015 and what comparisons have been carried out with competitors?***

The lease does not allow for further rent review after 2014/2015

***I understand that while there are 153 Spaces on North London Business Park site, none were purchased for social care teams. Where are these 'sufficient parking spaces as part of current lease'?***

Spaces are in the multistory car park.

***How do you know this number is sufficient?***

The spaces are deemed sufficient for those users who require them; this is based on an estimate of the percentage of such users who will be in the office at any one time; ad hoc monitoring of the number of spaces in use; and feedback from the services. See Refusal Notice below.

***I want now to see the business agreement with the Comer's and which members of staff are in fact permitted to park on site. I don't need their names, just job titles and departments.***

Staff who qualified as Business Users when working at North London Business Park were able to park in the blue leased spaces. We do not hold a list that specifies job titles so this information would take more than 20 hours to provide. Staff are from LBB departments (Adults and Health; Family Services; Growth and Corporate Services; Assurance; Environment) as well as from partner organisations. Other members of staff are able to park on site by paying and displaying in non-blue bays. See Refusal Notice below.

**Refusal Notice**

We consider that regulation 12 (4) (b) (Manifestly unreasonable) applies to the information requested because we consider that the request is manifestly unreasonable. This is because: Regulation 12 (4)(b) is subject to the public interest test where the public interest factors in favour of disclosure are weighed against the public interest factors in favour of maintaining the exception.

The request is being labelled as manifestly unreasonable, not the requestor.

**Factors in favour of disclosure:**

- The presumption in favour of disclosure in Reg 12 (2)
- Openness and transparency of the council
- Accountability for its actions and spending of public money

**Factors in favour of maintaining the exception**

- Allowing a public authority to undertake routine business without disproportionate levels of disruption. The information requested will take time to locate and this is estimated to be in excess of 20 hours.
- The way that this information was compiled in the past means that the list of people with permits would be out of date including:
  - information on leases is more than 12 years old and not stored on our current systems. Determination of the relevant leases, location, retrieval and extraction of the relevant information will take time.
  - In terms of permit information we hold a long list of staff with no job titles (as when staff were added this wasn't captured)

- Staff who would have moved jobs since their addition to the list who may or may not still be eligible based on new role
- Staff who have since left

The information held would therefore require a full review either by Human Resources and/or by service managers to confirm who had left, who was still here, what people's job titles were at the point of being added to the list.

In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the interest in favour of disclosure.

In all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

## **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.