



Assurance Group
London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
4 March 2020
Our ref: 6060888

Thank you for your request received on 7 February 2020, for the following information:

Approximately three years ago, what was a gym (The Works) at Alston Works was converted into eight live/work units without applying for planning permission or for change of use. I understand that a change in central government regulations meant that the Council could not force the owner to apply for planning permission although the request was made. The information that I require is as follows:

- (i) Has any application been received for approval of the conversion as satisfying building regulations, in particular regarding aspects relating to fire safety? If so, was approval given? If not, does the Council consider it to be its duty to ensure that such a conversion complies with building regulations in regard to fire safety? If not, who is responsible?**
- (ii) Has the council been receiving council tax payments from the occupants of the eight live/work units even though the building is not approved for residential use? If not, does the owner, or apparent occupier, still pay business rates?**

The address of the old gym is Unit 14, Alston Works, Alston Road, Barnet, Herts., EN5 4EL.

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

Response

The council holds the information requested and it is attached/ the answers to your questions are below

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duty to ensure that such a conversion complies with building regulations in regard to fire safety? If not, who is responsible?

We do not hold a Building Regulations application

(ii) Has the council been receiving council tax payments from the occupants of the eight live/work units even though the building is not approved for residential use? If not, does the owner, or apparent occupier, still pay business rates?

The address of the old gym is Unit 14, Alston Works, Alston Road, Barnet, Herts., EN5 4EL.

We have not received any Council Tax payments for the address as there is no address known as

Unit 14 Alston Works, Alston Road, Barnet, Herts, EN5 4EL on our Council Tax system.

We have been unable to find a property in the commercial rating list under the address of Unit 14, Alston Works, Alston Road, Barnet, Herts., EN5 4EL. However, we were able to locate Unit 13a 13b & 14, Alston Works, Alston Road, Barnet, Hertfordshire, EN5 4EL, which remains in the commercial rating list but has been zero-rated since 3rd August 2016 and therefore rates are not charged.

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.