



Assurance Group
London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
12 March 2020
Our ref: 6136388

Thank you for your request received on 28 February 2020, for the following information:

January's council payments show that the authority paid Saracens £10,976.48 for training on behalf of the Growth and Corporate Services Department.

How much time was spent at Saracens in regard to this training?

What was the exact nature of the training, and how many people benefited from it?

Who gave the training?

Why did the training need to take place at Saracens, rather than a venue which did not cost so much?

How many other venues were considered? Please send copies of proof that there was a costing exercise checking for best value for money.

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

Response

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

January's council payments show that the authority paid Saracens £10,976.48 for training on behalf of the Growth and Corporate Services Department.

How much time was spent at Saracens in regard to this training?

The council booked to use 2 rooms at Saracens, The 100 Club and The Fez, 19 November, 12:00-17:00

What was the exact nature of the training, and how many people benefited from it?

This was a staff development event aimed at management grades within the council. It looked at the future priorities for the council and what the staff would need to do to equip themselves to support Members in delivering those priorities. There

were also sessions on leadership and personal development. These covered: communications, resilience and wellbeing, working with the apprenticeship levy and customer service. There were 167 attendees.

Who gave the training?

The event was organised and delivered by the council staff. The session on future priorities was facilitated by Collaborate, who had already been working with the council on future priorities.

Why did the training need to take place at Saracens, rather than a venue which did not cost so much?

How many other venues were considered? Please send copies of proof that there was a costing exercise checking for best value for money.

The Saracens venue was considered to be the most appropriate venue based on the requirements of the event and location/proximity to council offices.

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.

