Assurance Group
London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
7 April 2020
Our ref: 6170488

Thank you for your request received on 9 March 2020, for the following information:

1) A copy of any plans/guidance for dealing with a potential coronavirus/covid-19 pandemic. This is likely to be your flu pandemic plan.

2) Please include any plans/or guidance on:
a) emergency centres (family and friends centres, survivor reception centres, humanitarian assistance centres,
b) the provision of emergency mortuaries,
c) the provision of burials,
d) dealing with the media
e) supporting people's faith
f) the provision of other services including as bin collections, street cleaning, libraries etc.
g) any other relevant plans

3) Please confirm if any amendments have been made to the pandemic plan specifically for coronavirus/covid-19.

4) Please confirm in what circumstances the plans would be triggered.

5) Please confirm whether, by the date of your response to this request, the pandemic plans have been triggered.

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 believe that the exceptionsdetailed below apply to some/all the information you requested and so we are withholding that information. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

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4) Please confirm in what circumstances the plans would be triggered.

5) Please confirm whether, by the date of your response to this request, the pandemic plans have been triggered.

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds the information you requested. However, we believe that the exemptions detailed below apply to all the information you requested and so we are withholding that information. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

We consider that the absolute exemption set out in Section 21 (Information accessible by other means) applies to the information requested because the information requested is already reasonably accessible elsewhere.

https://www.barnet.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-information-and-advice

We consider that the qualified exemption set out in Section 22 subsection 2 (Information intended for future publication) applies to the information requested. The information publsiehd will be updated as needed.

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

Factors in favour of disclosure

- Transparency and legitimate public interest in measures being taken to protect safety of the public

Factors in favour of withholding

- To dedicate efforts on advancing publication may undermine current safeguarding processes and may ultimately cause us to duplicate efforts which would not be the most efficient use of current resources

- there is greater public importance for the release of accurate and consistent messaging to best protect those vulnerable and at risk.

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

We consider that Regulation 6(1)(b) applies to the information requested because the information requested is already publicly available and easily accessible.

The information you requested is available on our website using the following link - [insert link to website]. If you do not have access to the internet at home, you may be able to use facilities at your local library.

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.