

21 April 2020
Our ref: 6246288

Thank you for your request received on 14 April 2020, for the following information:

As part of an academic research, I am requesting information on how planning applications for proposed residential developments are assessed in terms of visual privacy(Particularly overlooking of garden spaces). Below is my request.

In your Local Authority,

1. Is 'Separation Distances between buildings' the only method used as a guide to assess visual privacy in the determination of planning applications for proposed residential developments?

2. If the answer to question 1 is no, what other methods are used to assess visual privacy in the determination of planning application for proposed residential developments?

**For question 1, can you provided me with a 'Yes' or 'No'.
For question 2, can you provide me with just a list of the methods.**

If there are no established guidelines on how visual privacy is accessed, can you also include that in your response.

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 the information requested.

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 requested is available online in the residential design guidance SPD, link below:

[https://www.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/citizenportal/documents/planning conservationandbuildingcontrol/PlanningPolicy/SPD/ResidentialDesignGuidanceSP Doct2016.pdf](https://www.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/citizenportal/documents/planning%20conservationandbuildingcontrol/PlanningPolicy/SPD/ResidentialDesignGuidanceSPD%202016.pdf)

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.