



Assurance Group
London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
28 April 2020
Our ref: 6268090

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

I would like to know about your authority's role in enforcing coronavirus 'lockdown' restrictions in the 5 weeks since 23 March 2020.

I would like to know -

- 1. Please state whether your local authority has closed any public spaces or rights of way in response to the lockdown (for example, beach or beauty spots, carparks near beach or beauty spots, footpaths, public parks). Please state the public space that was closed and the reasons for closure.**
- 2. Whether your authority has issued fines for Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) since 23 March, to enforce the lockdown (for example, enforcing PSPOs against standing in groups, or using PSPO dispersal powers). Please give the number of PSPO fines issued and the offences for which they were issued; and the number of any dispersal orders issued.**
- 3. Whether any CPNs have been issued since 23 March (for example, requiring someone to stay in their property). Please give the number and nature of CPNs issued, if possible including the CPN text.□**
- 4. Whether local authority officers are patrolling to enforce lockdown measures contained in the 'Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations 2020' or the 'Coronavirus Act'. Please give the number and nature of local authority officers patrolling (for example, street wardens); and details of any fines/interventions.**
- 5. Please state if the local authority has empowered any private security companies to enforce during the lockdown, for example to fine people for PSPO violations. Please state the company involved and whether any fines have been issued by this company.□**

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

Response

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.

I would like to know about your authority's role in enforcing coronavirus 'lockdown' restrictions in the 5 weeks since 23 March 2020.

I would like to know -

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2. Whether your authority has issued fines for Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) since 23 March, to enforce the lockdown (for example, enforcing PSPOs against standing in groups, or using PSPO dispersal powers). Please give the number of PSPO fines issued and the offences for which they were issued; and the number of any dispersal orders issued.

3. Whether any CPNs have been issued since 23 March (for example, requiring someone to stay in their property). Please give the number and nature of CPNs issued, if possible including the CPN text.□

4. Whether local authority officers are patrolling to enforce lockdown measures contained in the 'Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations 2020' or the 'Coronavirus Act'. Please give the number and nature of local authority officers patrolling (for example, street wardens); and details of any fines/interventions.

5. Please state if the local authority has empowered any private security companies to enforce during the lockdown, for example to fine people for PSPO violations. Please state the company involved and whether any fines have been issued by this company.□

As this information is readily available, and updated regularly, your requested information is exempt under s.21 and s.22 of the Freedom of Information Act. The Council believes there is a greater public interest in holding this information back until it is approved for publication. 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. We understand the importance of releasing information to enable public debate, however, there is greater public importance for the release of accurate and consistent messaging to best protect those vulnerable and at risk.

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.

The council is publishing it's response to the current national emergency at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close-guidance#businesses-and-premises-that-must-remain-closed>

This information is regularly updated and in the course of completion.

We consider that the qualified exemption set out in Section 22 subsection 2 (Information intended for future publication) applies to the information requested. Therefore, we have decided to withhold the information.

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

- Legitimate public interest

Factors in favour of withholding

- Duplication of effort which may undermine safeguarding processes
- Need to make the most efficient use of resources especially at a time of national emergency
- In all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.
- The teams collecting the information are amongst those most affected by the demands of the emergency response

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.