



London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
18 May 2020
Our ref: 6295888

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

I am making this request under the terms of the FOIA.

How many officers are employed to answer submissions of FOI requests?

Of these, how many continued their roles throughout the lockdown period, up to today's date?

How many requests were sent responses, in that period?

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

Response

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

I am making this request under the terms of the FOIA.

How many officers are employed to answer submissions of FOI requests?

There are three officers within the Records and Information Management Team responsible for FOI, the Transparency and Information Rights lead, and two Information Management Officers who deal with the sending out of FOI responses on a daily basis.

There is also a FOI Link Officer Network who are able to send FOI requests on behalf of the Council.

Of these, how many continued their roles throughout the lockdown period, up to today's date?

One Information Management Officer was deployed to assist in COVID related activities part time. In addition some of the FOI Link Officer posts (Growth & Resources and Finance) are currently being covered by the Records and Information Management Team as posts are currently vacant with staff redeployed to other areas.

It should be noted, however, that most FOI requests would require input from specialist officers within services that are not covered by the above categories, many of these officers are likely to have been redeployed.

How many requests were sent responses, in that period?

Since March 23 we have responded to 183 cases.

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.