



Assurance Group
London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
23 July 2020
Our ref: 6407452

Thank you for your request received on 3 July 2020, for the following information:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information.

- 1) Can you confirm whether the council has had any arrangements or contracts with 'property guardian' companies in the last three years?**
- 2) Could you please provide me with details of any arrangements or contracts the council has had with property guardians in the last three years, including:**
 - The name of the company**
 - Details of the property, address, former building use**
 - The amount earned by the council for each contract or arrangement**
 - The number of years the contract or arrangement was in existence for**
 - Any costs to the council**
- 3) Could you provide the number of property guardians living in council-owned buildings for the last three years? Could you break this down by year?**
- 4) Could you provide any details of property guardian properties being used to house rough sleepers or homeless people during the COVID-19 crisis (between March 1 ' July 1) ?**

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 consider that the following exemptions apply to some of the information requested. The remaining information is not withheld and is below.

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information.

- 1) Can you confirm whether the council has had any arrangements or contracts with 'property guardian' companies in the last three years?***
- 2) Could you please provide me with details of any arrangements or contracts***

the council has had with property guardians in the last three years, including:
- The name of the company

- Ad Hoc Property management
- London Caretakers
- DEX Property Management

- Details of the property, address, former building use
- The amount earned by the council for each contract or arrangement
- The number of years the contract or arrangement was in existence for

Total income for each year is £46,273.65; 2018/19 - £37,495.00; 2019/20 - £19,250.00.

- Any costs to the council

In some cases, there is a cost associated with contracting guardians to look after buildings. These vary depending on the specific arrangements made for each building.

3) Could you provide the number of property guardians living in council-owned buildings for the last three years? Could you break this down by year?

This is being withheld because the information could be used against the guardians. Although the bona fides of requesters are genuine FOI responses are published to the world.

We consider that the qualified exemption set out in Section 31 (Law enforcement) subsection 1 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

- The council's commitment to openness and transparency

Factors in favour of withholding

- There is a strong likelihood of release causing crime.
- It is not in the public interest to increase the risks of crime

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

4) Could you provide any details of property guardian properties being used to house rough sleepers or homeless people during the COVID-19 crisis (between March 1 ' July 1)?

N/A

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.