

28 August 2020
Our ref: 6478904

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

I would like to request the following information under a freedom of information request:

Whether an 'Event Safety Advisory Group' or similar operates under this local authority?

And if so:

The agendas and minutes of any meetings held by this group between 1 January 2015 and 1 August 2020.

Please let me know if any clarification would be helpful

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 some of the information requested.

Whether an 'Event Safety Advisory Group' or similar operates under this local authority?

Yes an Event Safety Advisory Group does operate

And if so:

The agendas and minutes of any meetings held by this group between 1 January 2015 and 1 August 2020.

Please see attached

We consider that Regulation 12(5) (a) international relations, defence, national security or public safety to some of the information requested.

Therefore, we have decided to withhold the information.

Refusal Notice

R12(5) (a) international relations, defence, national security or public safety. The Council has determined that releasing information about security and counter terrorism measures may lead to it becoming a target for criminal or terrorist activity.

As such the Council is of the view that details of counter terrorism measures should be withheld.

This is a qualified exception under the EIR which means that consideration must also be given to whether in all the circumstances of the case the public interest favouring disclosure is greater than the public interest in maintaining the exemption. The public interest means what is in the best interests of the public, not what is of interest to the public.

Public interest test considerations

I have considered whether the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. There are a number of public interest arguments that weigh in favour of disclosing the information you have sought:

- The general proposition of maximising openness that the EIR and the Council aspire to;
- The benefits of ensuring transparent and accountable government by demonstrating measures taken to protect the building are suitable and sufficient, bringing to light information affecting public safety

However, against this there is a risk to safety which outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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.