



London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
3 February 2021
Our ref: 6971508

Thank you for your request received on 28 January 2021, for the following information:

What was the Department of Health and Social care (DHSC) criteria for permanent COVID Local Testing Sites testing sites?
How potential COVID Local Testing Sites many were identified by Barnet as meeting the DHSC criteria?
How many permanent COVID Local Testing Sites have been set up within the London Borough of Barnet?

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. The remaining information is not withheld and is below.

What was the Department of Health and Social care (DHSC) criteria for permanent COVID Local Testing Sites testing sites?

We hold a Local Authority Engagement Pack for COVID-19 Local Test Sites provided by the Department of Health and Social care which sets out the criteria for permanent local test sites. See Refusal Notice below

Regulation 12(5)(e) Commercial Interests

We consider that regulation 12 (5) (e) (Confidentiality of commercial or industrial information) applies to some of the information requested because we consider that disclosure of the information requested would adversely affect the confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect a legitimate economic interest.

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

- Furthering the understanding, and participation in the public debate of issues
- Facilitate the accountability and transparency of public authorities for decisions taken facilitate accountability and transparency in the spending of public money
- Allowing individuals to understand decisions made by public authorities affecting their lives and, in some cases, assist individuals in challenging those decisions

Factors in favour of withholding

- Repurposing of Council buildings is a commercially sensitive issue and will prejudice Council's interests and organisations interests where there are buildings that are leased out by the Council during the pandemic
- The Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) has marked the document Protect; Commercial in confidence which means that Information can only be shared where there is a commercial need-to-know and that guidance from DHSC must not be made public or otherwise in the sight of unauthorised persons.

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

How potential COVID Local Testing Sites many were identified by Barnet as meeting the DHSU criteria?

At the time of writing 16 sites have been visited.

How many permanent COVID Local Testing Sites have been set up within the London Borough of Barnet?

The Council has 3 permanent test location which can be located here and a mobile site

www.barnet.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-information-and-advice/covid-testing

We now have 3 Local Testing Site's (LTS) in Barnet:

- Watling Community Centre - (HA8 0TR)
- Fenella Building Car Park – Middlesex University (NW4 4BS)
- Osidge Lane Care Park - Southgate (N14 5DU)

Further information

The Department of Health and Social Care has been consulted on this response in line with the Code of Practice on Environmental Information Regulations. You can make a FOI request direct to the Department of Health and Social Care direct using the following email and ask them to provide a copy of the **Local Authority Engagement Pack for COVID-19 Local Test Sites**

dhscstesttrace.testenquiries@nhs.net

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.