

8 March 2021
Our ref: 7007568

Thank you for your request received on 9 February 2021, for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please list/provide me with:

- * The number of full time equivalent staff employed by your local authority in its Planning Department in the financial year 2010-11.**
- * The number of full time equivalent staff employed by your local authority in its Planning Department in the financial year 2020-21.**
- * The number of planning applications processed by your local authority in the financial year 2010-11.**
- * The number of planning applications processed by your local authority in the financial year 2020-21.**
- * Your spending on consultants to support planning services in the financial year 2018-2019**
- * Your spending on consultants to support planning services in the financial year 2019-2020**
- * Your spending on consultants to support planning services in the financial year 2020-2021**

I understand that under the Act, I should be entitled to a response within 20 working days of your receipt of this email.

Some parts of this request may be easier to answer than others. Should this prove to be the case, I would ask that you release available data as soon as possible - rather than hold up the entire request.

I would prefer to receive this information electronically. If the decision is made to withhold some of this data using exemptions within the Act, please inform me of that fact and cite the exemptions used.

If you need any clarification then please contact me via email. Under your section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance I would expect you to contact me if you find this request unmanageable in any way.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that you have received this request, and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

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.

We consider that Regulation 6(1)(b) applies to the information requested because the information requested is already publicly available and easily accessible.

**** The number of full time equivalent staff employed by your local authority in its Planning Department in the financial year 2010-11.***

We don't hold this information.

**** The number of full time equivalent staff employed by your local authority in its Planning Department in the financial year 2020-21.***

As of 30 May 2020 there were 81.91 fte staff in planning, this includes all staff in development management, planning policy, enforcement, trees and support staff. Of that number 5.5 fte are employed by the local authority.

**** The number of planning applications processed by your local authority in the financial year 2010-11.***

Available online here

www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-planning-application-statistics

**** Your spending on consultants to support planning services in the financial year 2018-2019***

**** Your spending on consultants to support planning services in the financial year 2019-2020***

**** Your spending on consultants to support planning services in the financial year 2020-2021***

The council pay a fixed fee to Re for the provision of the Planning services under the Joint venture contract with Capita, see link

<https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/e659v/regional-enterprise-ltd-re-contract>, this figure does not break down to individual spend on consultants. Contract performance updates under the Re contract are published on <https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/>

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.