

26 March 2021
Our ref: 7120844

Thank you for your request received on 15 March 2021, for the following information:

This is a Freedom of Information request on woodburning.

1) Please state how many complaints your local authority has received about smoke from domestic fires in each of the following calendar years:

- i) 2016**
- ii) 2017**
- iii) 2018**
- iv) 2019**
- v) 2020**
- vi) 2021**

2) Please state the number of enforcement actions taken by your local authority in the following categories against suspected breaches of smoke control area rules:

- a) Warning or guidance letters**
- b) Inspections**
- c) Penalty notices**
- d) Prosecutions**

In each of the following calendar years:

- i) 2016**
- ii) 2017**
- iii) 2018**
- iv) 2019**
- v) 2020**
- vi) 2021**

3) Please provide a copy of any guidance issued internally to council officers regarding the enforcement of alleged breaches of smoke control area rules.

4) Please provide a copy of any reports or guidance produced by your council relating to the local implementation of the Air Quality (Domestic Solid Fuels Standards) (England) Regulations 2020 from 1 May 2021.

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.

1) Please state how many complaints your local authority has received about smoke from domestic fires in each of the following calendar years:

i) 2016 - 162

ii) 2017 - 223

iii) 2018 - 139

iv) 2019 - 139

v) 2020 - 280

vi) 2021 - 39

2) Please state the number of enforcement actions taken by your local authority in the following categories against suspected breaches of smoke control area rules:

a) Warning or guidance letters

b) Inspections

c) Penalty notices

d) Prosecutions

In each of the following calendar years:

i) 2016

ii) 2017

iii) 2018

iv) 2019

v) 2020

vi) 2021

In 2016

a) Warning or guidance letters - 158

b) Inspections - 138

c) Penalty notices - 1 smoke nuisance (from chimney), 1 nuisance caused by fumes (spray painting)

d) Prosecutions - 0

ii) 2017

a) Warning or guidance letters - 225

b) Inspections - 222

c) Penalty notices - 0

d) Prosecutions - 1 smoke nuisance (from chimney, relates to the Notice served in 2016)

iii) 2018

a) Warning or guidance letters - 142

b) Inspections - 142

c) Penalty notices - 0

d) Prosecutions - 0

iv) 2019

a) Warning or guidance letters - 145

b) Inspections - 138

c) Penalty notices - 0

d) Prosecutions - 0

v) 2020

a) Warning or guidance letters - 277

b) Inspections - 270

c) Penalty notices - 0

d) Prosecutions - 0

vi) 2021

a) Warning or guidance letters - 40

b) Inspections - 39

c) Penalty notices - 0

d) Prosecutions - 0

It is noted that the majority of the complaints are dealt with informally by Public Health and Nuisance and Scientific Services, via visits, warning and guidance letters and phone calls.

3) Please provide a copy of any guidance issued internally to council officers regarding the enforcement of alleged breaches of smoke control area rules.

We have attached some documents: the anti -idling leaflet; the bonfires leaflet; the bonfire letter; and our smoke control letter.

4) Please provide a copy of any reports or guidance produced by your council relating to the local implementation of the Air Quality (Domestic Solid Fuels Standards) (England) Regulations 2020 from 1 May 2021.

In the past, we had been using the DEFRA guide which we have attached. Barnet have not created a wood burning point of sale poster.

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.