

13 April 2021
Our ref: 7125844

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

This request is made under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations and is submitted on behalf of Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association.

The request relates to the use (or failure to use) Council tax records in order to identify, with a view to taking enforcement action under the Town and Country Planning Legislation, properties which have been subdivided without planning permission having been obtained.

We note planning application reference 21/1233/191 | Use of dwelling as 4 no self contained flats | 29 Glenthorne Road London N11 3HU, which is an application for a certificate of lawfulness of existing use based on use for more than 10 years, where the applicant supports the application with copies of the Council Tax property list entries for the individual units from 2007.

The term 'documents' used below includes documents whether in written or in electronic formats and includes reports, papers, notes, emails, letters and memoranda.

A. We request copies of the following -

- 1. the documents comprising the current guidance/instructions/policy with regard to the use (or failure to use) Council Tax records in order to identify, with a view to taking enforcement action under the Town and Country Planning Legislation, properties which have been subdivided without planning permission having been obtained.**
- 2. the documents recording when the Council Tax records were last examined on a non-property- specific basis (i.e. on a basis which involved the review of such records relating to a road/ roads or area) to attempt to identify cases where properties had been subdivided without planning permission having been obtained.**
- 3. the documents setting out or considering any proposals for the use of Council Tax records in order to identify, with a view to taking enforcement action under the Town and Country Planning Legislation, properties which have been subdivided without planning permission having been obtained.**

B. If there are no documents to disclose in respect of 3 above, when were such proposals last considered?

We have processed this request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Response

includes documents whether in written or in electronic formats and includes reports, papers, notes, emails, letters and memoranda.

A. We request copies of the following -

1. the documents comprising the current guidance/instructions/policy with regard to the use (or failure to use) Council Tax records in order to identify, with a view to taking enforcement action under the Town and Country Planning Legislation, properties which have been subdivided without planning permission having been obtained.

Information not held

2. the documents recording when the Council Tax records were last examined on a non-property- specific basis (i.e. on a basis which involved the review of such records relating to a road/ roads or area) to attempt to identify cases where properties had been subdivided without planning permission having been obtained.

Information not held

3. the documents setting out or considering any proposals for the use of Council Tax records in order to identify, with a view to taking enforcement action under the Town and Country Planning Legislation, properties which have been subdivided without planning permission having been obtained.

B. If there are no documents to disclose in respect of 3 above, when were such proposals last considered?

Information not held.

To the best of our knowledge, the Planning department has not conducted a trawl of the council tax records as part of a pro-active investigation of unauthorised property conversions which have been subdivided without planning permission.

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.