

24 May 2021
Our ref: 7262704

Thank you for your request received on 23 April 2021, for the following information:

In addition, kindly also send me the following documents as a new Freedom of Information request:

Any document that considers any potential conflict of interest or lack of transparency concerns with RE and or the Council's planning services, including, but not limited to, any audit report of the decision to outsource planning services and subsequent review thereof to ensure that the arrangements are working satisfactorily and free from conflicts of interest impacting decisions.

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.

Any document that considers any potential conflict of interest or lack of transparency concerns with RE and or the Council's planning services, including, but not limited to, any audit report of the decision to outsource planning services and subsequent review thereof to ensure that the arrangements are working satisfactorily and free from conflicts of interest impacting decisions.

The original Cabinet report on the outsourcing can be found at:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=120&MID=7462#AI3944>

Subsequent quarterly performance reports have been provided to the Finance and Contract Performance Committee and can also be found on the Council's Modern Government website

Internal Audit and CAFT Report Planning Applications and Enforcement October 2017. Overall assurance rating of 'Reasonable'.

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1>

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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.