

24 May 2021  
Our ref: 7338288

Thank you for your request received on 19 May 2021, for the following information:

**I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000/Environmental Information Regulations about the access your local authority has to ecological expertise in-house.**

**'In-house ecological expertise' is defined as those who are employed by the council on a part-time or full-time basis and who have Chartered Ecological status (CEcol).**

**In March 2018, it was revealed that only 1 in 4 councils had access to some form of ecological expertise within their own teams. Would you please tell me how many chartered ecologists the council has employed over the last three years between May 2018 to May 2021?**

**Would you please provide this figure in terms of FTE equivalence. I would prefer to receive this information electronically, preferably as a data set in Excel and not as a PDF, to include the following information as set out below. If the information is not possible to put into a spreadsheet, please provide the information in its existing format, rather than rejecting this FOI request.**

**For example, if you have employed only one chartered ecologist 2.5 days a week over the past three years the FTE figure = 0.5**

**2018-2019 chartered 2019-2020 chartered 2020-2021 chartered  
0.5 0.5 0.5**

**As a second part to this request would you please also tell me how many 'other environmental experts' the council employs, who are either unchartered but hold a position as an environmentalist or hold chartered status in a related discipline e.g. someone who holds Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) status. Would you please also provide this figure in terms of FTE equivalence. E.g. If you employed one chartered environmentalist and one unchartered environmental expert full-time between May 2018 - May 2020 but then lost one of these between May 2020- May 2021 then the FTE figure would be as follows:**

**2018-2019 other expertise 2019-2020 other expertise 2020-2021 other expertise  
2 2 1**

**If the decision is made to withhold some of this data using exemptions in the**

**Data Protection Act, please inform me of that fact and cite the exemptions used. If some parts of this request are easier to answer than others, I would ask that you release the available data as soon as possible.**

**I would be grateful if you could confirm you have received this request and I look forward to hearing from you within the 20 working day statutory time period.**

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

## **Response**

We have no in house ecological expertise in Planning or Building Control.

## **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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.org.uk)). There is no charge for making an appeal.