

6 August 2021
Our ref: 7509156

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

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from your council. Please can you provide me with the information to the three questions below:

QUESTION 1: How many new food businesses have registered with your council between financial year 6 April 2020 and 5 April 2021?

QUESTION 2: Of all the new food businesses who have registered with your council between financial year 6 April 2020 and 5 April 2021, how many of those were first inspected by an environmental health officer within 28 days of their application?

QUESTION 3: Of all the new food businesses who have registered with your council between financial year 6 April 2020 and 5 April 2021, how many of those have still not yet been inspected by an environmental health officer?

Please feel free to pass this email on to whoever is best placed to meet this request. If any clarification of this request is required please do not hesitate to contact me using the contact details below to discuss (rather than waiting until the end of the 20-day period).

If some parts of this request are more difficult to answer than others, or parts of this request exceed costs, please respond with a partial response, or release material as it becomes available, rather than hold up the entire request for the contested data.

My preferred format to receive this information is by electronic means. Please email your response to: xxx

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

Response

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below

QUESTION 1: How many new food businesses have registered with your council between financial year 6 April 2020 and 5 April 2021?

492 food registrations were received in this period.

QUESTION 2: Of all the new food businesses who have registered with your council between financial year 6 April 2020 and 5 April 2021, how many of those were first inspected by an environmental health officer within 28 days of their application?

47 were inspected within 28 days of our being aware that they **started to trade** (the Food Standard Agency's target for newly registered businesses). They cannot be inspected if they have not started to trade or we haven't been made aware of same. Ergo we don't have reports which count inspections within 28 days of registration per se. However, in most cases these are the same.

It should be noted that of the 492 new registrations, 64 had already closed by 05/04/2021 so we could not inspect them. A further 65 have also closed between 05/04/2021 and 05/08/2021 before we could inspect them. The vast majority of these 'closures' had in fact never started to trade and in most cases this wasn't established until we attempted to inspect them.

This performance does not reflect our 'normal' performance where we generally inspect 95% of new businesses within 28 days of being aware that they have started to trade. Obviously Covid 19 completely disrupted our inspection program.

QUESTION 3: Of all the new food businesses who have registered with your council between financial year 6 April 2020 and 5 April 2021, how many of those have still not yet been inspected by an environmental health officer?

145 of the 492 premises remain to be inspected as of 05/08/2021

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.