



London Borough of Barnet,  
2 Bristol Avenue,  
Colindale,  
London NW9 4EW  
27 August 2021  
Our ref: 7528380

Thank you for your request received on 29 July 2021, for the following information:

- 1. What enquiries are generally conducted by the local authority to identify a found unidentified body?**
- 2. How and where is information relating to public health funerals recorded and stored? (Please comment on both digital and physical recording/storing)**
- 3. Does the recorded information include the location of the bodies within cemeteries or crematoriums?**
- 4. Are unidentified bodies usually buried or cremated?**
- 5. Are cases of unidentified bodies reviewed? If so, what does this involve and when?**
- 6. What records and systems are cross-matched with information relating to cases of unidentified bodies?**
- 7. When is information relating to public health funerals deleted or destroyed?**
- 8. How is information relating to public health funerals shared between individuals, departments, police forces, different agencies, and with the public?**
- 9. Are there any differences in the above processes relating to unidentified body parts? If so, what are the differences?**
- 10. Who has the overall responsibility for public health funerals within the local authority?**
- 11. How can the management of information related to unidentified bodies be improved?**
- 12. Is there a person within the local authority who would be willing to be contacted by the PhD researcher to answer further questions that will take approximately 30 minutes? If so, what are their contact details?**

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

## **Response**

The council holds the information requested and it is attached/ the answers to your questions are below

### ***1. What enquiries are generally conducted by the local authority to identify a found unidentified body?***

All unidentifiable bodies are a police matter and it is the police/coroner's responsibility to make an identification

### ***2. How and where is information relating to public health funerals recorded and stored? (Please comment on both digital and physical recording/storing) In statutory burial or cremation records***

Uniform a case management system, we publish data the following data on Open Barnet

### ***3. Does the recorded information include the location of the bodies within cemeteries or crematoriums?***

Yes

### ***4. Are unidentified bodies usually buried or cremated?***

Buried

### ***5. Are cases of unidentified bodies reviewed? If so, what does this involve and when?***

N/A. Unidentified bodies are a police matter.

### ***6. What records and systems are cross-matched with information relating to cases of unidentified bodies?***

N/A. Unidentified bodies are a police matter.

### ***7. When is information relating to public health funerals deleted or destroyed?***

Burial records are held in perpetuity

### ***8. How is information relating to public health funerals shared between individuals, departments, police forces, different agencies, and with the public?***

Information is shared in line with the policies set out in our Records and Information Management Framework

All our public health funerals are published in a public register which is found on our website

<http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

[Public Health Funerals Summary Data - Barnet Open Data](#)

[Public Health Funerals 2020/21 - Barnet Open Data](#)

**9. Are there any differences in the above processes relating to unidentified body parts? If so, what are the differences?**

N/A, this would be a police matter.

**10. Who has the overall responsibility for public health funerals within the local authority?**

Environmental Health

**11. How can the management of information related to unidentified bodies be improved?**

N/A

**12. Is there a person within the local authority who would be willing to be contacted by the PhD researcher to answer further questions that will take approximately 30 minutes? If so, what are their contact details?**

N/A

### **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.