

21 September 2021
Our ref: 7646632

Thank you for your request received on 14 September 2021, for the following information:

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 please could you advise on the following:

1. Under the council's authority (either run directly by the council, or contracted to a third party on the council's behalf) how many of the following sites were open to the public in September 2010, and how many sites are open in September 2021?

- * Leisure Centres
- * Indoor or outdoor swimming pools/facilities
- * Playing fields and 3G/4G pitches (for grassroots sports purposes - e.g., football, rugby)
- * Running tracks
- * Other grassroots sports facilities
- * Children's play parks/playgrounds

2. How many, if any, of the above sites were closed because of the Coronavirus pandemic, and remain closed in September 2021? For any closed sites, are there plans to reopen?

3. What was the council's expenditure on the following sites in the 2010/11 financial year, and how does this differ to expenditure in the 2021/22 financial year? If possible, please break these figures down by the categories below.

If you could please provide the data for this request in electronic format, to this email address.

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

I am writing to inform you that we have searched our records and although we hold some of the information requested, some of the information you requested is not held by London Borough of Barnet.

We have provided answers to your request below.

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 please could you advise on the following:

1. Under the council's authority (either run directly by the council, or contracted to a third party on the council's behalf) how many of the following sites were open to the public in September 2010, and how many sites are open in September 2021?

*** Leisure Centres**

5 in 2010 and 2021

*** Indoor or outdoor swimming pools/facilities**

7 in 2010 and 8 in 2021 (incorporated within the above five leisure facilities)

*** Playing fields and 3G/4G pitches (for grassroots sports purposes - e.g., football, rugby)**

The number playing fields in Barnet has remained consistent over this time period, the 2017 Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) provides a breakdown of all playing fields sites and reflects the position for 2010 and 2021 <https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/epryv/draft-playing-pitch-strategy-2017>.

*** Running tracks**

The athletics facility formally known as Cophall Stadium was leased to Saracens Rugby Club around 2012 and remains open and under their management since that date.

*** Other grassroots sports facilities**

Please refer to the Playing Pitch Strategy above. Additionally we currently have 18 Multi Use Games areas within our parks and open spaces. We do not hold a list of such facilities from 2010 however there would be a small increase in the number of facilities since that year.

*** Children's play parks/playgrounds**

We currently have 50 playgrounds in Barnet, we do not hold a list of the number of sites from 2010 however this would be broadly the same if not a small increase.

2. How many, if any, of the above sites were closed because of the Coronavirus pandemic, and remain closed in September 2021? For any closed sites, are there plans to reopen?

In line with government guidelines leisure facilities, play areas and sports courts were closed at points during the pandemic however all such facilities have reopened and remain open.

3. What was the council's expenditure on the following sites in the 2010/11

financial year, and how does this differ to expenditure in the 2021/22 financial year? If possible, please break these figures down by the categories below.

If you could please provide the data for this request in electronic format, to this email address.

It is not possible to break this information down as all our facilities are managed as part of a portfolio budget e.g. parks and open spaces facilities cover play, sports courts, playing pitches, horticulture management, buildings and asset management etc.

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 Records & Information Management Service, Assurance Group, 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.