

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London, NW9 4EW
24 September 2021
Our ref: 7613549

Thank you for your request received on 31 August 2021, for the following information:

Dear Sirs,

This request is made under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations and is submitted on behalf of Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association.

The request relates to data held by the Council concerning the level of private car ownership at different locations in the Borough.

When considering planning applications for residential development the Council should have regard to applicable planning policies, which currently set maximum levels of car parking provision by reference to various criteria (which are currently under review as part of the general re-writing of the Borough Plan) and frequently also to parking availability surveys provided by the applicant to demonstrate the extent to which there is unused on-street parking capacity potentially available for use by residents of the proposed development. The planning policies and the survey results define the potentially available supply of parking spaces (on-site and on-street respectively).

1. What data (and from what sources and of what date) does the Council have available to it and habitually use when considering planning applications to assess the reasonably expected level of car ownership (and thus the level of demand for parking spaces) appropriate to the proposed development ?

2. Does such data take account of the general level of car ownership in an area and also public transport accessibility and the number and mix of unit sizes and the level of car ownership associated with such units?

3. Is the data available at both Ward and postcode level? If not, at what levels is it available?

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

Census car ownership data as a reference (Nomisweb.co.uk - Office for National Statistics) is available to the Council and Developers. Basing car ownership forecasts on census data implicitly assumes that new housing will have similar characteristics as older housing stock in any given area. The Mayor's London Plan as well as Barnet's emerging Local Plan have ambitious targets for reducing dependence on the car and promoting healthy and sustainable travel. Therefore, Car ownership is one of a number of parameters the Council uses to determine parking levels for new developments. The potential to own a car is affected by a range of issues including National, Regional and Local Policy considerations, local parking restrictions, availability of Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) as well as public transport accessibility levels. Site specific parking surveys are also undertaken to further inform decisions.

Question 2

Census data does take into account car ownership by dwelling type (e.g. flat, house, private, affordable) for Census Output Areas, Super Output Areas, Wards and postcode area. TfL's WebCAT planning tool can be used to establish the public transport accessibility level for the specific areas of interest.

Question 3

Data for Ward and postcode areas is available.

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/>

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You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

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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.