

London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
19 November 2021
Our ref: 7772552

Thank you for your request received on 28 October 2021, for the following information:

The closure of Apthorp in the midst of a social care crisis in the UK.

I would like to gain some understanding into the closure and what the future plans are for the building and am putting in an FOI request Under the Freedom of Information Act. Please can you provide me with a comment touching specifically on the below:

- * Where the residents have been moved (whether in the borough or out)**
- * Whether staff have been made redundant**
- * What Barnet plans to do with the building once the works have been done - will it remain under the care of the local authority or outsourced**
- * I have also been informed by a source that it may be sold to Capita - is this true**
- * Is it true that the council is responsible for the upkeep and repairs of the building**
- * Is it true that if the council was to sell on the contract, they would have to return the building to Catalyst in a good state of repair at their expense**

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

The closure of Apthorp in the midst of a social care crisis in the UK.

I would like to gain some understanding into the closure and what the future plans are for the building and am putting in an FOI request Under the Freedom of Information Act. Please can you provide me with a comment touching specifically on the below:

- * Where the residents have been moved (whether in the borough or out)***

Every resident was moved with their full consent. Every resident was given the option to stay at Apthorp until they were ready to move. Moves have been based on the preferences of residents and their families, some in borough, others out of

borough. Several residents have moved to be closer to their families who live outside the borough. We worked with our residents' GPs and medical end of life care professionals to ensure they moved safely into their new homes.

**** Whether staff have been made redundant***

All staff have been offered re-deployment. The consultation process has placed significant emphasis on supporting staff to be re-deployed into other YCB services, where there are over 50 vacant equivalent posts (e.g. care worker roles) available for affected staff. In addition, there are more vacant posts which provide re-deployment opportunities in the wider Barnet Group organisation. Staff have been offered training, taster days and additional financial payments to take up redeployment opportunities. Some staff have chosen to take retirement; and some staff have declined re-deployment opting instead for redundancy, but all have been offered re-deployment opportunities and there are high levels of suitable alternative roles in YCB and the Barnet Group.

**** What Barnet plans to do with the building once the works have been done - will it remain under the care of the local authority or outsourced***

The building is owned by Catalyst, a registered social landlord (housing association) and leased to Barnet council. The council is still leasing the building and is working through the details of the extensive repairs required, which are likely to be a multi-year programme of works.

**** I have also been informed by a source that it may be sold to Capita - is this true***

As above, the council does not own the building and therefore cannot sell it. The council is not aware of any plans to sell the building to Capita by Catalyst.

**** Is it true that the council is responsible for the upkeep and repairs of the building***

The council has a full repairing lease, which means that the council is responsible for repairs. Full repairing leases are a standard form of lease, widely in use.

**** Is it true that if the council was to sell on the contract, they would have to return the building to Catalyst in a good state of repair at their expense***

A standard clause in a full repairing lease is for the lessee to return the building in a good state of repair. The landlord and tenant would agree the works to be done by both parties at this point.

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.