

London Borough of Barnet  
2 Bristol Avenue,  
Collindale,  
London, NW9 4EW  
3 August 2022  
Our ref: 8329479

Thank you for your request received on 5 July 2022, for the following information:

**This is a FOI request about the Councillors' code of conduct.**

**During the years 2021-22 and 2020-21,**

**1a. How many potential breaches of the Councillors' code of conduct were reported to the Standards Committee, or other relevant ethics committees?**

**1b. How many of these potential breaches led to investigations?**

**1c. How many of these investigations related to planning, development or housing issues?**

**2. For each investigation of potential breaches of the code of conduct that related to planning, development or housing issues in 1c, please state:**

**2a. The date the potential breach was reported**

**2b. The date the investigation commenced**

**2c. Whether the investigation has concluded**

**2d. Which body conducted the investigation**

**2e. The name(s) of the councillors who were investigated**

**For concluded investigations please also state:**

**2f. Whether a breach of the code of conduct was found to have occurred**

**2g. What action was taken (if any) following the investigation**

**3. Does the council have a policy relating to new business appointments taken up by councillors and/or senior staff after they have finished a term of service or employment?**

**4a. If such a policy exists, does it include post-employment restrictions that seek to ensure former councillors and staff do not make use of privileged information to which they were party? This may include, for example, advice or restrictions on the type of job they can accept, or their future communications**

**with the council over a fixed period of time.**

**4b. If such a policy exists, please state its name and which organ of the council is responsible for the oversight and enforcement of it?**

**4c. If such a policy exists, please provide a copy of it.**

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

## **Response**

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds the information you requested.

However, we believe that the exemptions detailed below apply to some/all of this information and this is withheld. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

***This is a FOI request about the Councillors' code of conduct.***

***During the years 2021-22 and 2020-21,***

***1a. How many potential breaches of the Councillors' code of conduct were reported to the Standards Committee, or other relevant ethics committees?***

The Standards Committee has not received any reports during 2020-21, 2021-22 and as such no meetings of the Standards Committee have been convened.

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteId=769>

Section 7.1 of the Procedure for dealing with Complaints under the Council's Constitution states that: The Monitoring Officer will submit a report to the Constitution and General Purposes Committee at annual intervals to inform the Committee about all complaints which have been received during the year.

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s70893/20AProcedurefordealingwithcomplaints.docx.pdf>

The Constitution and General Purposes Committee on 7 February 2022 considered the annual report on the Code of Conduct for 2020-21 which is available via the following link below. A total of seven complaints had been received for the period 2020-21.

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/b38393/Annual%20Review%20of%20the%20Members%20Code%20of%20Conduct%2007th-Feb-2022%2019.00%20Constitution%20and%20General%20Purposes.pdf?T=9>

The report on the Code of Conduct allegations for the period 2021-22 is expected to be reported to Committee on 6th October 2022 and will be made available prior to the meeting here:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=174&MId=11117&Ver=4>

***1b. How many of these potential breaches led to investigations?***

None, see annual report on the Code of Conduct for 2020-21 as detailed under question 1a.

***1c. How many of these investigations related to planning, development or housing issues?***

N/A - see report linked under question 1a.

***2. For each investigation of potential breaches of the code of conduct that related to planning, development or housing issues in 1c, please state:***

***2a. The date the potential breach was reported***

N/A

***2b. The date the investigation commenced***

N/A

**2c. Whether the investigation has concluded**

N/A

**2d. Which body conducted the investigation**

N/A

**2e. The name(s) of the councillors who were investigated**

N/A

**For concluded investigations please also state:**

**2f. Whether a breach of the code of conduct was found to have occurred**

N/A

**2g. What action was taken (if any) following the investigation**

N/A

**3. Does the council have a policy relating to new business appointments taken up by councillors and/or senior staff after they have finished a term of service or employment?**

The Council's Constitution section Member Code of Conduct sets out the responsibility of Councillors and co-opted Members to comply with the provisions of the Code.

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s70892/20MemberCodeofConduct.docx.pdf>

**4a. If such a policy exists, does it include post-employment restrictions that seek to ensure former councillors and staff do not make use of privileged information to which they were party? This may include, for example, advice or restrictions on the type of job they can accept, or their future communications with the council over a fixed period of time.**

N/A – the above mentioned Code relates to (current) Councillors.

**4b. If such a policy exists, please state its name and which organ of the council is responsible for the oversight and enforcement of it?**

The Constitution and General Purposes Committee reviews all aspects of the Council's Constitution to ensure that it remains current and fit for purpose and to make recommendations thereon to the Council.

**4c. If such a policy exists, please provide a copy of it.**

See response under question 3.

## **S21 - Material already published**

Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you by other means.

The information relevant to your request is published online at the links given above.

## **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 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](http://www.ico.org.uk)). There is no charge for making an appeal.