

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW
15 September 2022
Our ref: 8352479

Thank you for your request received on 27 August 2022, for the following information:

Cycle Lane East Finchley Station

The scheme has been in operation for over 18 months.

Please give me figures for the number of cyclists using the road, separately for going north and south, by month since the start of the scheme to current.

The purpose is to judge whether the scheme has resulted in more use by cyclists.

Monthly figures are needed to ignore the months of Covid, which would not be represented.

This has been asked for previously, but no statistic were given at that stage.

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

Response

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below

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Traffic volume, including cycle count surveys, been carried out periodically along the route. As alluded to in the question, these figures may have been impacted by Covid. Now that we are in a post covid environment, further traffic volume surveys are planned, commencing in September until the end of the year.

We consider that regulation 12(4)(d) (in course of completion, unfinished or incomplete) applies to the information requested here, because we consider that the request relates to material which is still in the course of completion, to unfinished documents or to incomplete data. Therefore, we have decided to withhold the information. For further information relating to this exemption, please refer to the final paragraph of our response.

In applying exemptions, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the interest in favour of disclosure.

Public interest test considerations

I have considered whether the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. There are a number of public interest arguments that weigh in favour of disclosing the information you have sought:

- The general principal of maximising openness and transparency that the EIR and the Council aspire to;
- The benefits of ensuring transparent and accountable government by disclosing how the Council makes decisions and receives and spends public money;

However, there are also public interest arguments against disclosure:

- Releasing the information as currently held would almost certainly provide an inaccurate picture of the data, as the process of data collection has not yet finished.
- The decision making process that the data relates to is ongoing, and releasing it at this time would have a negative impact on procedural integrity, specifically due to the fact that the data as it stands is incomplete and therefore misleading

We find that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in withholding outweighs the public interest in disclosing at this current time.

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.