

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London, NW9 4EW
12 December 2022
Our ref: 8795645

Thank you for your request received on 8 December 2022, for the following information:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information Please may you provide me with:

- 1. Who is the BNG lead within the council and what are their direct contact details?**
- 2. What practises/processes do the council currently have, or intend to have, in place for how they are going to manage/monitor the 30-year requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) from November 2023 when 10% BNG becomes mandatory?**
- 3. What information/technology systems do you plan to utilise to manage/monitor the delivery of BNG?**
- 4. Which outside bodies (eg. wildlife trusts, ecologists, community groups, habitat banks) are you working with to assist in delivering Biodiversity Net Gain?**
- 5. Is the council planning to use any of their own land to deliver BNG? If so, please provide details of the location and size.**
- 6. What plans do you have in place, or intend to have for the training of staff on BNG? If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me via email and I will be very happy to clarify what I am asking for and discuss the request, my details are outlined below.**

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

- 1. Who is the BNG lead within the council and what are their direct contact details?**

The Council has employed 2 ecologists to deliver the requirements of the BNG under the Environment Act 2021. Our Senior Ecologist is located with Trees, Ecology & Sustainability, Development Management and 2nd Biodiversity and Conservation Officer located within Greenspaces.

2. What practises/processes do the council currently have, or intend to have, in place for how they are going to manage/monitor the 30-year requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) from November 2023 when 10% BNG becomes mandatory?

The council is waiting for guidance and regulations to issued from Natural England which will determine exactly how this will be undertaken.

3. What information/technology systems do you plan to utilise to manage/monitor the delivery of BNG?

The council is waiting for guidance and regulations to issued from Natural England which will determine exactly how this will be undertaken. Currently supporting documents are had within the existing Planning module of Uniform, the software programme the Council uses to manage planning applications.

4. Which outside bodies (eg. wildlife trusts, ecologists, community groups, habitat banks) are you working with to assist in delivering Biodiversity Net Gain?

The council is working with London Wildlife Trust, Greenspace Information for Greater London, London Borough Biodiversity Forum, Environment Bank.

5. Is the council planning to use any of their own land to deliver BNG? If so, please provide details of the location and size.

The Council is undertaking a review of all its land holdings to determine if they would be suitable for delivering BNG.

6. What plans do you have in place, or intend to have for the training of staff on BNG?

The ecologist hold regular weekly surgeries for planning officers to discuss ecology and BNG matters. As further regulations and guidance is published more formal training will be organised for staff.

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.