

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale NW9 4EW
29 December 2022
Our ref: 8722820

Thank you for your request received on 25 November 2022, for the following information:

Please provide us with the following information in a machine readable spreadsheet (csv or xlsx preferably):

*** The number of asylum seekers placed in hotel accommodation within your area from January 2018 to the latest complete month, broken down by year and month**

*** The number of hotels within your area being used to house asylum seekers from January 2018 to the latest complete month, broken down by year and month**

It would be helpful if the spreadsheet was formatted like this:

Year Month Number of asylum seekers in hotel accommodation Number of hotels housing asylum seekers
2018 January
2018 February
etc...

In addition, please answer the following questions with a yes or no, if you cannot do this please provide additional details:

*** Are you (the council) currently engaged in or considering taking legal action to stop asylum seekers being housed in hotel accommodation in your area? (yes/no)**

o If yes what legal action have you taken/considered?

*** Have you/are you considering using your planning enforcement powers to dispute the use of hotel accommodation to house asylum seekers? (e.g. change in use from hotel to a longer term housing facility) (yes/no)**

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

Response

I am writing to inform you that we have searched our records and although we hold some of the information requested, some of the information you requested is not held by London Borough of Barnet.

We have provided answers to your request below.

Please provide us with the following information in a machine readable spreadsheet (csv or xlsx preferably):

**** The number of asylum seekers placed in hotel accommodation within your area from January 2018 to the latest complete month, broken down by year and month***

**** The number of hotels within your area being used to house asylum seekers from January 2018 to the latest complete month, broken down by year and month***

It would be helpful if the spreadsheet was formatted like this:

Year Month Number of asylum seekers in hotel accommodation Number of hotels housing asylum seekers

2018 January

2018 February

etc...

Please see attached the documents with the details for the contingency hotels from November 2020 - November 2022. However we do not hold any information from 2018 until November 2020 as our first contingency hotel was set up in April 2020 but data did not start being shared with us until November of that year.

In addition, please answer the following questions with a yes or no, if you cannot do this please provide additional details:

**** Are you (the council) currently engaged in or considering taking legal action to stop asylum seekers being housed in hotel accommodation in your area? (yes/no)***

o If yes what legal action have you taken/considered?

We have not considered legal action to stop hotels being used for asylum seekers

**** Have you/are you considering using your planning enforcement powers to dispute the use of hotel accommodation to house asylum seekers? (e.g. change in use from hotel to a longer term housing facility) (yes/no)***

we have not considered using planning enforcement powers to prevent it.

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.