

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale NW9 4EW
7 February 2023
Our ref: 9124144

Thank you for your request received on 3 February 2023, for the following information:

Please can you provide all information for the financial year 2021-2022, and from the start of financial year 2022 to 31 December 2022, for the following:

- 1. The total number (absolute number and full time equivalent) of local authority employees who are trade union representatives.**
- 2. The total number (absolute number and full time equivalent) of trade union representatives who spent at least 50 per cent of their time on union duties.**

Look forward to hearing from you soon.

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 of this information and this is withheld. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

Please can you provide all information for the financial year 2021-2022, and from the start of financial year 2022 to 31 December 2022, for the following:

- 1. The total number (absolute number and full time equivalent) of local authority employees who are trade union representatives.***
- 2. The total number (absolute number and full time equivalent) of trade union representatives who spent at least 50 per cent of their time on union duties.***

Look forward to hearing from you soon.

The latest available figures during 2021/2022 are available here:

[Trade union facility time | Barnet Council](#)

S22 – Material intended for publication

The information you have requested for 22/23 is being withheld under section 22 (intended for future publication) of the Act. As section 22 is a qualified exemption, we are required to consider whether the public interest lies in withholding the information or in disclosing it. The arguments for and against disclosure are detailed below.

The general argument in favour of releasing information is that there is a public interest in being able to scrutinise aspects of the Local Authorities where that information might be easy to access and will not prejudice the London Borough of Barnet. Against disclosure the argument is the public interest in permitting public authorities to publish information in a manner and form and at a time of their own choosing. It is a part of the effective conduct of public affairs that the general publication of information is a conveniently planned and managed activity within the reasonable control of public authorities. Where the decision has been made in principle to publish, there is a reasonable entitlement to make arrangements to do so.

The Trade Union facility time information for 2022/2023 will be made available at the above link

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.