

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London, NW9 4EW
7 February 2023
Our ref: 9037084

Thank you for your request received on 20 January 2023, for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please may I request the following information:

- 1) The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) planning department case officers employed by the council in each year between 2013 and 2022.**
- 2) The number of major planning applications determined by the council in each year between 2013 and 2022.**
- 3) The average number of weeks between major planning applications being validated and determined, in each year between 2013 and 2022.**

We have processed this request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Response

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds the information you requested. However, we believe that the exceptions detailed below apply to some of this information and this is withheld. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

1) The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) planning department case officers employed by the council in each year between 2013 and 2022.

Year	2014	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of staff	34.38	41.9	51.5	59.2	60.5	66	70	65

R6(1)(b) - Material already published

Under Regulation 6(1)(b) of EIR, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you by other means.

2) The number of major planning applications determined by the council in each year between 2013 and 2022.

3) The average number of weeks between major planning applications being validated and determined, in each year between 2013 and 2022.

The Council's website can be interrogated for this information. The information relevant to your request is published online at the following link:

<https://publicaccess.barnet.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=advanced>

Planning decisions by: type of development, speed of decisions, can be located on the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) website.

Speed of Decision: The percentages do not relate directly to the total number of decisions taken, as some applications (eg. an application for a determination as to whether planning permission is required) can neither be granted nor refused.

Type and Speed: Percentages may not add up to one hundred due to rounding.

Statistics back to 1999-00 available on Communities and Local Government website.

The information relevant to your request is published online at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-planning-application-statistics>

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.