

London Borough of Barnet  
2 Bristol Avenue,  
Colindale,  
London, NW9 4EW  
13 February 2023  
Our ref: 9003357

Thank you for your request received on 16 January 2023, for the following information:

**I would like information about your council's lobbying work in relation to climate action for the Council Climate Action Scorecards.**

**In particular, please supply me with information relating to the following question:**

**Has the council written to or met with UK national or devolved governments to ask or lobby for climate action since 1st January 2019? Please provide some evidence of the most recent letter or meeting such as a copy of the letter or email sent, or the date, topic of meeting and position of the person that the meeting was held with.**

**This includes either asking for more powers and funding for local authorities to take climate action, or asking for the government to take further action themselves. This includes working with other local authorities to send joint letters or meetings to lobby UK or devolved governments, and includes both general climate action and calls for action on specific issues such as transport where climate change is mentioned as a motivating factor for taking action.**

**This includes if a cabinet member or other councillor has written to or met with the UK or devolved governments on behalf of the council.**

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.

***I would like information about your council's lobbying work in relation to climate action for the Council Climate Action Scorecards.***

***In particular, please supply me with information relating to the following question:***

***Has the council written to or met with UK national or devolved governments to***

***ask or lobby for climate action since 1st January 2019? Please provide some evidence of the most recent letter or meeting such as a copy of the letter or email sent, or the date, topic of meeting and position of the person that the meeting was held with.***

***This includes either asking for more powers and funding for local authorities to take climate action, or asking for the government to take further action themselves. This includes working with other local authorities to send joint letters or meetings to lobby UK or devolved governments, and includes both general climate action and calls for action on specific issues such as transport where climate change is mentioned as a motivating factor for taking action.***

***This includes if a cabinet member or other councillor has written to or met with the UK or devolved governments on behalf of the council.***

Yes, the Council has written to or met with the UK national or devolved Government to ask or lobby for climate action within this period.

The Council is actively involved in lobbying central government as part of the collective of London local authorities, London Councils. Climate change is one of the three policy areas that London Councils have identified as key strategic priorities for the current period. London Councils undertakes large amounts of engagement and lobbying around this issue – regularly writing to and meeting with government representatives and civil servants in relevant departments to influence the speed, quality and focus of government action on climate change. London Councils also works to ensure that the resources and levers central government make available to us at a local level allow us to deliver strategically and with our local context at the core.

To give just a couple of examples of recent work:

- London Councils submitted [evidence](#) on behalf of all London authorities to the government-commissioned Skidmore Review on Net Zero, and noted that the recommendations of [the review](#) strongly reflected our contributions
- London Councils has been involved with Number 10 discussions around increasing energy efficiency measures and local retrofit resourcing

These are just two examples of a large work programme, and further information on this collective advocacy work are publicly available in the minutes and reports of the Transport and Environment Committee, Leaders Committee, and further reports from London Councils, which are available online [here](#).

Similarly, at an individual borough level, we have engaged with national and devolved government on climate change policies through a variety of methods, such as participating in consultations around topics including housing and transportation, including the recent Transport for London consultation around the expansion of the Ultra-Low Emissions Zone.

We have also passed a number of motions, including a recent [statement](#) in January 2023 around the Great Homes Upgrade and retrofit, which resolves to write to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State to lobby for greater support and Government action.

In addition, since May 2022, the Leader of the Council has written to two successive Prime Ministers (Rt Hon Liz Truss MP and Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP), lobbying for

more resources to retrofit homes to help tackle fuel poverty and address climate change. Copies of the letters can be found online here:

[Cost of Living Crisis: Council Leader urges PM for action to help 9,500 Barnet families - Barnet Labour Party - Barnet Labour Party](#)

[Barnet Council's Leader urges PM to use Autumn Statement to 'save our services' and close £700m funding gap - Barnet Labour Party - Barnet Labour Party](#)

In January the Council also passed the following motion and amendment on the 'Great Homes Upgrade' calling on Government for more funds for retrofitting:

[Great Homes Upgrade 24.01.2023.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[13.1 Administration Amendment - Great Homes Upgrade -Cllr Clarke.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

The Leader of the Council also met with the Mayor of London in November last year. One of the subjects they discussed was LB Barnet's plans to get the Council to net zero by 2030 and the Borough by 2042. This was to start a conversation about working together on tackling climate change.

### **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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.org.uk)). There is no charge for making an appeal.