

London Borough of Barnet  
2 Bristol Avenue,  
Colindale NW9 4EW  
19 March 2024  
Our ref: 11553192

Thank you for your request received on 9 February 2024, for the following information:

**I am writing to submit a request under the Freedom of Information Act for full publication of the third party site suitability assessment which London Councils relied upon for the selection of a site for a secure children's home, currently proposed for Lea Bridge Road.**

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

## **Information Request ref: 11553192**

***I am writing to submit a request under the Freedom of Information Act for full publication of the third-party site suitability assessment which London Councils relied upon for the selection of a site for a secure children's home, currently proposed for Lea Bridge Road.***

The London Borough of Barnet (LBB) does hold the information requested which has been prepared on behalf of London boroughs in respect of the provision of a Pan-London Secure Children's Home.

We can confirm that, as part of the site selection process for the proposed development, around 450 sites were identified initially, of which 70 were longlisted for further consideration and assessment.

In addition to the site selection process, a sequential assessment is being developed - this is a requirement for the planning application for this site. The final sequential assessment will contain details about the other sites that were reviewed as part of the site selection process and will further confirm the Thames Water Depot on Lea Bridge Road as the only suitable site for this facility.

Details on the proposed scheme can be found here: <https://londonschbuild.co.uk/>

The planning application will be subject to a period of formal public consultation during which views on the proposed development can be expressed and is anticipated to be brought forward in summer 2024.

We are therefore withholding some of the information - see Refusal Notice below.

## **Refusal Notice**

### **R12(4)(d) - Material which is still in the course of completion, unfinished documents or incomplete data**

We consider that regulation 12(4)(d) - Material which is still in the course of completion, unfinished documents or incomplete data applies to the information requested because we consider that the request involves information that is in draft form.

In the case of the draft, the document is an unfinished, unofficial which does not fully represent the originating authority's views. Release could give a misleading and inaccurate picture being requested as it will be reviewed without the context of the detailed analysis that is still being undertaken in order to finalise the sequential assessment for submission as part of the planning application.

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.

It is considered that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Therefore, we have decided to withhold the information.

## **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.