

2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

15 July 2024
Our ref: 12527552

Thank you for your request received on 4 July 2024, for the following information:

Please can you provide all meeting minutes related to Labour's plan to charge VAT on private school fees if it forms the next government and contingency plans the council has discussed to accommodate additional pupils entering the state system as a result. If the issue was raised as part of a wider meeting, please only include the relevant minutes.

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

Response

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below

Please can you provide all meeting minutes related to Labour's plan to charge VAT on private school fees if it forms the next government and contingency plans the council has discussed to accommodate additional pupils entering the state system as a result. If the issue was raised as part of a wider meeting, please only include the relevant minutes.

The only meeting where we discussed this was in the recent BELS Board Meeting. The section of the minutes state:

VAT Exemption of Private School fees in Labour manifesto

Chris Munday (CM) spoke about Independent Schools and his concern regarding these schools being predominantly religious which involves a particular ethos. CM stated that it would be good to look at Jewish School placings as a potential risk and impact if they were to become maintained schools. LC added that this was a good point and there are indeed a lot of concerns. Council would need to consider whether any independent schools should be allowed into the maintained sector. Current criteria is that they need to be Good or Outstanding; a large number of independent schools are Requiring Improvement or Inadequate. Neil Marlow (NM) added that some research and data can be made with regards to the level of Orthodoxy of each school. NM showed and went through some data on the screen on Ofsted with regards to Barnet Independent Schools.

Caring for people, our places, and the planet
ACTION: NM to produce report on Jewish Schools in Barnet outlining different types, quality and capacity.

Please can you provide the information requested to make sure that we can respond to the request within the statutory time .

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.