



My Ref: FOI/ 5210
Enquiries to: Information Requests
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Requester,

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

Please provide the following data, if held, for each calendar year from 2018 to 2024 inclusive.

If a year-by-year breakdown cannot be produced within the statutory time or cost limits, please instead provide the total figure for the entire period (2018–2024).

1) The number of HMO licence applications received.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
HMO Licence request	71	89	87	82	92	139	175	735

2) The number of HMO licence applications refused.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
HMO license refusal	0	0	0	<5	0	0	0	<5

Small numbers have been suppressed to avoid the possibility of identifying the property.

3) The number of HMO licences revoked or suspended.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
Formal HMO license revoked	0	<5	<5	<5	6	12	16	39

4) The number of complaints received relating to HMOs.

Including domestic bin issues, hoarding, vulnerable people, ASB, waste in garden and littering/fly tipping.

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
19	75	130	126	112	117	123	702

5) The number of inspections of HMOs carried out.

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
90	164	217	207	204	257	298	1437

Visits would have been done for all complaints.

After considering your request I have decided to refuse it under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. This is because it is estimated that the time taken to provide the information would exceed the appropriate limit of £450, equivalent to 18 hours of staff time.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act is a provision which allows a public authority to refuse to comply with the request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed a set limit known as the appropriate limit.

We cannot state the number of Inspections/HHSRS inspections done on properties without going through each individual diary entry; some properties require more visits, communication and inspections than others. It is estimated that it would take 5 minutes per record of which there are 1437 and this would equate to over 119 hours of staff time.

5) The number of enforcement or improvement notices issued, or prosecutions brought, relating to HMOs.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
Including fly tipping, eviction and MEES	4	10	16	9	7	27	7	80
Unknown (outcome not recorded or job still open)	19	11	11	1	5	3	163	213

7) (If recorded) The number of unlicensed or illegal HMOs identified.

After considering your request I have decided to refuse it under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. This is because it is estimated that the time taken to provide the information would exceed the appropriate limit of £450, equivalent to 18 hours of staff time.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act is a provision which allows a public authority to refuse to comply with the request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed a set limit known as the appropriate limit.

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Prior to 2019/20, HMO licence records were kept manually. The electronic list we now have of Licenced, Known, Suspected HMOs are not kept by year but is continually updated.

We therefore cannot confirm the number of unlicensed or illegal HMOs to answer this question, as it would involve going through each individual diary entry. This would take us over the time/cost limitation.

In addition, small HMOs do not require a licence.

However, the number of suspected HMOs currently on our list is **85**. When inspected, some of these maybe small HMOs not requiring a licence and therefore not illegal.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Information Requests Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Email: <http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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