



My Ref: FOI4785
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: -

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting information on your council's Code of Conduct investigations into councillors, for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24, and 2024/25 (taking the financial year from 1 April to 31 March.)

1. Published Reports or Online Links

Please provide the URLs or copies of any annual or quarterly reports published on your website that summarise Code of Conduct complaints, outcomes, and investigations for the above years. This may include Standards Committee reports, Monitoring Officer updates, or local governance summaries. (For this request, I am not interested in any Parish Council investigations / complaints).

2022/23 – nil return

2023/24 – nil return

2024/25 – nil return

2. Case-Level Investigation Data

For each individual complaint that was formally investigated (not just referred or dismissed at initial filter stage), please provide this data in a spreadsheet or CSV, one row per case:

- **Financial Year**
- **Investigator Type**
- **Total Cost of case (£)**
- **Hours Charged in the case**
- **Outcome Type**

- **Investigator Type should be one of:**
 - o **Internal officer (e.g. MO/DMO)**
 - o **Reciprocal arrangement with another Council**
 - o **Independent freelancer**
 - o **Specialist agency (e.g. Hoey Ainscough)**
 - o **Law firm or solicitor (e.g. VWV, Wilkin Chapman Rollits, etc.)**

o Other (please specify)

• Outcome Codes

Please include a basic outcome classification, such as:

- o no breach
- o informal resolution
- o breach found
- o referred to full Standards Committee, etc.

For example:

Year	Investigator Type	Total Cost	Hours	Outcome Type
2022/23	Freelancer	£2,000	30 hrs	Breach Upheld
2022/23	Specialist agency	£1,800	12 hrs	No breach
2023/24	Law firm	£4,000	15 hrs	Informal resolution

Spreadsheet supplied in separate attachment.

3. Nil responses

Please indicate if there is a nil response in any year, i.e. if there were no formal investigations.

There were no complaints that were progressed to formal investigation in 2023/24.

4. Parishes or Town Councils – out of scope

Details of Parish / Town Council complaints which are referred to a District / Borough Council Monitoring Officer are not requested as part of this Freedom of Information Act request.

Confidentiality

Please do not disclose personal names of members, complainants, officers or investigators. Simply code anonymised cases for analysis.

This request is designed to enable analysis of who performs Code of Conduct investigations in practice, when external expertise is used, and at what cost. If any part of this request exceeds cost limits, please advise how it could be refined and I'd be happy to refine the scope

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email.

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PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

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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