



My Ref: FOI/4348
Your Ref:
Date: 02/05/2025
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: -

Your questions and my findings are as follows:-

Q1. Does your council have a Budget Accountability Framework, Budget Escalation Framework, or any other policy, protocol, or document which sets out the expectations of budget holders and the procedures for addressing non-compliance?

If yes, please answer Questions 2 to 4 only.

One is currently in development

If no, please answer Questions 3 to 8 only.

Q2. In relation to Q1, please provide a copy of the document(s), or a link to where they can be accessed.

This is an internal document and not for publication

Q3. Does the council provide training or guidance to budget holders on their financial responsibilities and/or escalation procedures?

Yes

Q4. In relation to Q3, please provide a copy of the relevant training material, policy, or guidance documents.

The training will be provided via the council's online training system and not for publication

Q5. What procedures are in place if a budget holder or service area is forecasting or reporting an overspend?

Depends on the value /amount of the overspend but generally Finance staff work with service staff on corrective action. Where necessary more detailed work is undertaken and an action plan created to correct overspending areas. The position is regularly reported to the council's SMT, Cabinet and Audit Committee may also be called into scrutiny committee. In certain circumstances oversight boards are established to ensure ongoing scrutiny. A good example here is the Children's Financial Sustainability programme of work.

Q6. Are there defined thresholds (e.g. percentage variance, monetary value) that trigger escalation?

Not specifically defined thresholds. All cost pressures are questioned and actions brought forward where necessary to address known issues.

Q7. Once escalation is triggered via a defined threshold or otherwise, what actions follow (e.g. reporting to senior leadership, finance team involvement, development of a recovery plan)?

As per Q5 above

Q8. Are such escalations reported to any council committees (e.g. Cabinet, Audit Committee, Scrutiny Committee)?

As per Q5 above

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

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

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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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