



My Ref: FOI 6502
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: -

I am writing to make a formal request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Please provide the following information held by the Local Authority on official complaints submitted by members of the public against elected officials.

By "complaint" I mean any allegation, received and recorded by your Monitoring Officer (or nearest equivalent official), that an elected official has breached the authority's code of conduct. By "elected official" I mean an elected member of the Metropolitan Borough Council and, where you hold this, any parish or town councillor for whom you are the responsible principal authority.

I am seeking aggregate, statistical information only. I am not requesting anything that would identify any individual complainant or elected official, and I do not require any case-by-case review of individual complaint files. If any element below cannot be answered from your existing complaints records within the appropriate cost limit, please treat the remaining elements as severable and answer those if you can.

Information Requested

For each of the calendar years 2024 and 2025, and for Q1-Q2 of 2026 (1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026), please provide:

- 1. The total number of complaints received about elected officials submitted by the public;**
- 2. A numerical breakdown of the complaints categorised by the political party of which the elected officials involved are members.**
- 3. For each numerical total of complaints categorised by political party membership, please provide:**
 - If known, the nature of the alleged or actual conduct that was the cause of the complaint, categorised as follows (or its nearest equivalent):**

- **disrespect, bullying or harassment;**
 - **failure to register or declare a disclosable interest;**
 - **misuse of position, resources or authority;**
 - **breach of confidentiality;**
 - **bringing the authority or office into disrepute;**
 - **conduct on social media or online;**
 - **other (please specify the categories you use).**
- **A numerical breakdown of the current statuses of the complaints, categorised as follows (or the nearest equivalent you record):**
 - **Proceeded past initial assessment to formal investigation;**
 - **Breach of the code was found;**
 - **Resulted in a sanction (broken down by type of sanction applied).**

(Where a complaint spans more than one category, please count it under the primary category or briefly note your counting approach.)

Information requested can be found in attached spreadsheet. Please note we do not categorise complaints by political party, therefore we are unable to provide that information.

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
S70 9GG

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PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire 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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