



My Ref: FOI/5141
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 consideration of your request for information and our findings are as follows:

After careful consideration, we have decided to apply Section 14(1) of the Freedom of Information Act to your request. This section allows us to refuse requests that are considered vexatious.

Over the past year, we have seen a growing pattern of coordinated requests. The nature of these requests often relates to important topics such as housing, immigration, equality and diversity, public finances, and SEND, which are understandably in the public interest.

However, we have also seen that some of the FOI responses are subsequently shared in ways that can misrepresent the information provided and, at times, cause unnecessary disruption and distress to people and communities.

We remain fully committed to openness and transparency, and all our FOI responses are published in full on our website to ensure that accurate information is available to everyone. Unfortunately, when responses are shared out of context, it can sometimes lead to misunderstandings and, in some cases, inappropriate comments or abuse directed towards individuals, communities or council staff and elected members. This is not in keeping with the spirit or purpose of the FOI Act.

Considering the volume and pattern of requests, the disproportionate impact and strain on public resources required to respond, and the potential disruption and distress to people and communities we believe that applying Section 14(1) in this instance is justified and proportionate.

For the avoidance of doubt, this letter is applicable to any FOI requests that have been logged with the council awaiting a response.

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
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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