BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

My Ref: FOI4889
Your Ref:
Date: 24/09/2025
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: -

For the period from 1 July 2025 to the latest date for which records are held at the time of your search (please state the end date used), please provide:

1. The total recorded spend incurred by the Council in removing unauthorised flags from public land or the highway, broken down (if held) by: staff time/recharge rates, contractor costs, vehicles/materials, disposal, overtime.

The costs incurred by the Council for the removal of unlicensed attachments to highway assets between 01 July 2025 and 23 September 2025 is approximately £6,000. The costs can be considered as “contractor costs” for the purpose of this response.

2. The number of incidents/jobs where unauthorised flags were removed, with date and ward or postcode sector for each (no exact addresses required).

Area	Asset Type	Date Removed
Hoyland	Unlicenced attachment	31 August 2025
Grimethorpe	Unlicenced attachment	31 August 2025
Bolton upon Dearne	Unlicenced attachment	31 August 2025
Barnsley	Unlicenced attachment	31 August 2025
Barnsley	Unlicenced attachment	31 August 2025
Barnsley	Unlicenced attachment	31 August 2025
Bolton upon Dearne	Unlicenced attachment	31 August 2025
Bolton upon Dearne	Unlicenced attachment	31 August 2025
Bolton upon Dearne	Unlicenced attachment	31 August 2025
Bolton upon Dearne	Unlicenced attachment	31 August 2025
Darfield	Unlicenced attachment	31 August 2025
Bolton upon Dearne	Unlicenced attachment	31 August 2025
Worsbrough	Unlicenced attachment	11-Sep-25
Elsecar	Unlicenced attachment	11-Sep-25
Hoyland	Unlicenced attachment	11-Sep-25
Hoyland	Unlicenced attachment	11-Sep-25
Goldthorpe	Unlicenced attachment	11-Sep-25

Thurnscoe	Unlicenced attachment	11-Sep-25
Thurnscoe	Unlicenced attachment	11-Sep-25
Thurnscoe	Unlicenced attachment	11-Sep-25
Thurnscoe	Unlicenced attachment	11-Sep-25
Cudworth	Unlicenced attachment	11-Sep-25
Shafton	Unlicenced attachment	11-Sep-25
Brierley	Unlicenced attachment	11-Sep-25
Grimethorpe	Unlicenced attachment	11-Sep-25
Grimethorpe	Unlicenced attachment	11-Sep-25
Grimethorpe	Unlicenced attachment	11-Sep-25
Athersley North	Unlicenced attachment	11-Sep-25
Athersley North	Unlicenced attachment	11-Sep-25
Athersley North	Unlicenced attachment	11-Sep-25
Athersley South	Unlicenced attachment	11-Sep-25
Athersley South	Unlicenced attachment	11-Sep-25
Dodworth	Structure attachment	31-Aug-2025
Wombwell	Structure attachment	31-Aug-2025
Blacker Hill	Structure attachment	31-Aug-2025

3. The job/incident category codes and cost centre/recharge codes used for these removals (e.g. fly-posting/illegal signage/unauthorised banner).

Category codes used include “unlicenced attachment” and “structure attachment”.

4. The current schedule of rates (or equivalent) used by the Council/its contractor for removal of illegal signage/flags.

We have determined that providing any information regarding third party contractors linked to this request would present a real risk to the safety and wellbeing of the individuals involved. There is concern that revealing who delivers works for BMBC regarding the removal of any attachments could cause them to be targeted with abuse, threats or violence. The council does not believe there is legitimate public interest in knowing who carries out the works or the specific rates being used. As such, the potential for harm outweighs the public interest in disclosure in this instance. Therefore, under Section 38(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this information is exempt from disclosure.

Anyone engaged to carry out work on behalf of the Council would do so in accordance with the Council’s published procurement strategy. Details can be found here - Council tenders and contracts – including links to the published contracts register.

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5. Any policy/guidance/SOP in force during the period for identifying and removing unauthorised flags, including the legal basis (e.g. Highways Act 1980 s132 / Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regs 2007).

Barnsley MBC is the Highway Authority for the borough of Barnsley. As Highway Authority, Barnsley MBC has powers and responsibilities under the Highways Act 1980 and other statutory provision relating to the highway and road safety.

Section 97 of the Highways Act 1980 allows for the Highway Authority to light the highway, and as such construct and maintain such lamps, posts and other works as they consider necessary. Once constructed any street light becomes part of the highway.

Section 132 of the Highways Act states that you cannot affix any item to the Highway, without the consent of the Highway Authority.

If you do not hold a discrete "flag" category, please extract cases recorded under flyposting/illegal signage/unauthorised banners where the free-text notes contain "flag", "Union Jack", "St George's Cross", "England flag" (or combinations thereof) for the period.

If the request would exceed the appropriate cost limit, please:
*** Provide items (1)–(2) as aggregated totals for the period;**
*** Provide (3)–(5) in full; and**
*** Advise what shorter date range or narrower category would be disclosable within the limit.**

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

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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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