



My Ref: FOI/ 5410
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: -

Please provide the following data:

1. 2025/26 Actuals and Outturn Forecast

1a. Provide the total number of days a temporary worker was employed via an agency for the communications roles defined above from 6 April 2025 to the date of this request.

1b. Provide the council's current projected year-end outturn for the total number of agency days for these roles for the full 2025/26 financial year (ending 31 March 2026).

1c. Provide a breakdown of these days (actual and forecast) by job grade or title (e.g., Communications Officer, Senior Communications Officer, Communications Manager).

2. 2026/27 Planned Requirements

2a. Provide the total number of days currently budgeted or forecasted for agency-provided communications staff for the 2026/27 financial year.

2b. Provide a breakdown of this requirement by job grade or title.

2c. Financial Qualifier: Note that I am requesting the currently held financial forecasts and draft budget allocations for 2026/27 as they exist at the time of this request. If these forecasts do not yet segment requirements by specific job title, please provide the department's overall forecasted budget or total "headcount days" for temporary agency workers within the communications function.

Public Interest and Statutory Compliance: This information is requested to ensure transparency regarding the use of public funds and to assist in confirming the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of council staffing structures. There is a clear and compelling public interest in the disclosure of how local authorities manage their workforce budgets and their reliance on third-party agencies.

Requirement for Third-Party Data If this information is held on your behalf by a third-party recruitment partner or Managed Service Provider (MSP), please note that under Section 3(2)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this information is deemed to be held by the public authority. I respectfully request you immediately retrieve this data from your provider to fulfill this request without delay.

Format of Response: Provide this data in a machine-readable format, specifically a Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) or CSV file. Please include separate columns for: "Role Title," "Actual Days (YTD)," "Forecasted Outturn (25/26)," and "Planned Requirement (26/27)."

To ensure full compliance and avoid data processing delays, provide the requested information in a machine-readable Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) or CSV format, specifically organized into separate columns for Role Title, Actual Days (YTD), Forecasted Outturn (25/26), and Planned Requirement (26/27).

Cost of Compliance If you estimate the cost of compliance will exceed the statutory limit, please prioritize the data for Section 1 (2025/26). Under Section 16, please advise how I might refine the remainder of the request to bring it within the limit.

We do not hold this information as we haven't had any of these roles during the requested period.

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: -

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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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