



My Ref: FOI/ 4620
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: -

How have the council currently informed voters that are on current voting register, with regards to the new voting processes that will happen next May in the local elections in 2026.

It is important to note that the voting system has not directly changed and is still a Member Plurality (First Past the Post) system. Voters will be asked to vote for up to three candidates at the local elections in May 2026 as has happened previously in Barnsley in 2004 and on occasions before. Voters in parish council areas of the borough are used to this type of voting at all parish council elections and it is used widely elsewhere in England. Barnsley Council does not wish to risk causing voter confusion by publishing information about the voting system at a point when we are relatively far removed from the election.

Please could you explain what has been currently done to raise the awareness on how ballot papers will be filled in, and how many candidates the electorate will be able to vote for when completing a ballot paper, compared to the old system.

The council will be running a public awareness campaign leading up to the elections which will include information that voters can vote for up to three candidates in each ward. This will also be included at the top of every ballot paper and on a notice in every polling booth.

Could you confirm if any information has been sent out, or is due to be sent out, and in what time frame do you expect to have this completed by before the next local election process.

We anticipate that our public awareness campaign will begin in March 2026.

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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