



My Ref: FOI/ 5127
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: -

1. Please provide the total number of licensed HMOs in the local authority as of 31st October 2025. If available, please include a breakdown by postcode area or ward.

Please refer to the BMBC website where this information is available.

(<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/zebiml3/licenced-hmos-public-register.pdf>)

2. Please provide the total number of planning applications submitted between 1st January 2020 to present for change of use to C4 (small HMO) and Sui Generis (large HMO).

Please refer to the BMBC website where this information is available via conducting an advanced search. (<https://planningexplorer.barnsley.gov.uk/>)

3. If possible please include application reference number and applicant type (e.g., individual, company, names not required).

Please refer to the BMBC website where this information is available.

(<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/zebiml3/licenced-hmos-public-register.pdf>)

4. Of the licensed HMOs identified in question 1:

How many are currently used to house asylum seekers or refugees?

There are 9 properties currently used to home asylum seekers

How many are managed directly by the council or by a third party (e.g., Home Office contractors such as Serco or Mears).

All 9 properties are managed by a third party

No personal data on individuals is requested, in line with data protection regulations. This information is sought for public interest research on housing provision.

5. For the next 24 months, how many additional HMOs/properties for asylum/refugee dispersal, are planned or expected? Include any contract summaries or forecasts shared with Home Office providers. Aggregate numbers acceptable for data protection reasons.

It is not possible to predict a future number for the next 2 years.

6. Please provide risk assessments, equality impact assessments, or public consultation records (last 2 years) on HMO asylum use, including how objections are addressed. Aggregate numbers acceptable for data protection reasons.

If costs exceed limits, please prioritize Q1-4 and advise on refinements. I would appreciate a response within 20 working days.

After considering your request I have decided to refuse it under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. This is because it is estimated that the time taken to provide the information would exceed the appropriate limit of £450, equivalent to 18 hours of staff time.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act is a provision which allows a public authority to refuse to comply with the request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed a set limit known as the appropriate limit. Thank you for your understanding.

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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PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG