



My Ref: FOI5465
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 purposes of this request, ‘tradespeople’ refers to any individual providing professional services in skilled trades, such as plumbing, building, electrical work, carpentry, and other related manual or technical services.

- **The number of open investigations that Barnsley Borough Council Trading Standards has into tradespeople suspected of breaching consumer protection law.**

No current investigations where individuals are in the process of being interviewed/warned or prosecuted. Watching brief on complaint records for other companies albeit this cannot be extracted as data.

- **The number of times Barnsley Borough Council Trading Standards took enforcement action against tradespeople suspected of breaching consumer protection law during the following years: 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, and 2020.**

No enforcement action involving the types of “tradespeople” listed above via the Courts or Improvement Notices.

- **The frequency with which breaches of CMA guidance were cited in complaints submitted to Barnsley Borough Council Trading Standards concerning tradespeople.**

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 18 hours.

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. In this case it is estimated that to search for the information you have requested would require a manual review of 13,119 records, taking approximately 5 minutes per record, to check whether the narrative or attached documentations could be linked to CMA guidance, which would result in more than the 18 hours of staff time, equivalent to a cost of £450 and this is the basis of the decision.

- **The number of staff employed by Barnsley Borough Council Trading Standards during the previous five years (2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021).**

The figures below include staff whose remit would have included Fair Trading

2021: 3
 2022: 3
 2023 2
 2024 1 + one Apprentice
 2025 1 + two Apprentice

- **The number of staff who have left Barnsley Borough Council Trading Standards in 2025 during the previous five years (2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021), through each of the following ways (moved roles internally, left Barnsley Borough Council Trading Standards voluntarily, made redundant).**

2021: 0
 2022: 0
 2023 2 1 moved internally/1 left Barnsley Council voluntarily
 2024 0
 2025 0

- **Budget allocated to Barnsley Borough Council Trading Standards during the previous five years (2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021).**

Please see financial information below:-

Year	Total Spend £
2020-21	234,287
2021-22	173,519
2022-23	216,946
2023-24	294,155
2024-25	316,918

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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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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