



My Ref: FOI/ 4746
Your Ref:
Date: 28th July 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: -

You may have seen this news article:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2k1k2xq7wko>

It suggests possible issues with pre-2020 installations and the following AI-sourced information suggests quality issues at that time.

<https://chatgpt.com/share/6885d79e-560c-800b-9e0a-fdb3e7966f6f>

1. Is BMBC aware of the issue(s)?

Barneslai Homes who are responsible to manage the housing stock on behalf of the Council are not aware of any health and safety issues with the current solar PV portfolio. We have received no notification from the regulatory bodies, emergency agencies, manufacturers, or contractors etc on any associated risks we need to be aware of in relation to the solar panels installed on homes. Social Landlords are required by law to ensure electrical installations are inspected and tested at least every 5 years. Additionally, any identified remedial work is completed within our agreed BH Electrical Safety Policy.

For the wider Council asset base (including schools and non-housing properties), Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council also has not received any notification from the fire service, regulatory bodies, emergency agencies, manufacturers, or contractors regarding safety issues related to the current solar PV portfolio. BMBC carry out 5-year electrical test on all assets managed by the council.

2. Are there any qualifying pre-2020 installations where BMBC have any responsibility?

Barneslai Homes manages a number of homes that have solar PV fitted prior to 2020.

BMBC also manages a number of assets where solo PV have been fitted prior to 2020

3. If so, have they been updated?

NA – as per response for Q1

4. Is the Fire Service aware of and involved?

NA – as per response for Q1

5. Are you satisfied that post-2019 installations meet the latest standards?

Barneslai Homes and the Council are satisfied the solar PV fitted on homes, schools and non-housing properties post 2019 met the building standards and other regulatory requirements at the time of installation.

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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