BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

My Ref: FOI4487
Your Ref:
Date: 02/06/2025
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: -

1) What's the current number of empty properties and long term empty properties across the council, as of June 2? If a figure is not available for June 2, please provide the most up-to-date figure available and state the date for which that figure is accurate. How many of those are owned by the council? What were the numbers as of 2 June 2019, in terms again of empty properties, long term empty properties, and council-owned empty/long term empty properties?

- As of April 2025, the number of long term empty (6 months+) was 1778. We are unable to provide ownership details.

2) How many people were on the social housing waiting lists on those two dates?

- 2 June 2025: 4449 applicants on the Housing Register
2 June 2019: Unable to provide exact date. However 2020 – 7482 applicants on the Housing Register

3) What's the reason that the long term empty properties are currently void? Please provide a breakdown by void status – i.e. classifying them as available (Undergoing works, Ready for Occupation, TA: Ready for letting, Long cycle void group, Major Works, Minor repairs), temporarily unavailable (Unauthorised Occupant, Squatted, Capital void, Redevelopment), and permanently unavailable (Demolition, Disposal) or a similar classification method that you use.

It is not clear if this question refers to all tenures or council owned housing stock. We do not have access to the information requested for non-council owned void properties.

4) Since 2019, have you undertaken any work around reducing your long term empty properties? If you have, was this done using internal resources, third party resources, or both?

There is an ongoing capital works programme to reduce the number of void properties

and reduce the length of time these properties remain unoccupied. Please note, this relates to council owned housing only.

5) How many properties were brought back into use as a result in each of those years since 2019? What were the average financial costs per property, in order for them to be brought back into use?

- We do not hold the information to respond to this point. However, I can confirm that the number of empty properties has risen by 257.

6) What work is the council currently undertaking and what is it planning to undertake when it comes to reducing its long term empty properties?

- Please see response to Q4

7) Does the council offer financial support, in terms of grants or loans, to Long Term Empty property owners to help them bring properties back into use? If yes, how many owners have made use of that in every year since 2019?

- 36 properties received grants between 2018 & 2021.

8) What's the budget, if any, that the council has allocated for supporting the reduction of empty properties?

- We have a staffing budget and enforcement action budget to be able to carry out enforcement and reclaim back through the enforced sales process.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email.

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

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Customer Services Team
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Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Email: http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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