



My Ref: FOI/4478
Your Ref:
Date: 30/05/2025
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: -

Your questions and my findings are as follows:-

The RSPB warn that the swift population is plummeting. Before the last general election, Labour supported measures that would have resulted in new build properties having swift bricks installed during construction; however, nationally, Labour have reneged on this commitment. Within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act, would you please provide me with the measures BMBC will take to ensure that Swift bricks are installed in all new build properties within the BMBC area?

BMBC adopted an updated Biodiversity and Geodiversity Supplementary Planning Document in March 2024. Within Section 6 (Integrating Biodiversity into Developments in Barnsley), Table 1 (Mitigation/enhancement requirements) of the document the following is stated:

100% of all new dwellings to include integrated bat and bird boxes, alongside the provision of bird boxes in retained/newly created habitat on site to provide nesting habitat for a variety of species. In respect of birds, integrated swift boxes are advised as these are also used by other common nesting species. On constrained sites, practical consideration should be given to prioritising boxes within optimum areas of the site and be based on best practice. All other suitable application types will include integrated bat and bird boxes in keeping with the scale of development, i.e. minimum of 10 boxes for the first 1000 sqm footprint and one additional box for every 1000 sqm. Developments should ensure the installation of bird nesting and bat roosting boxes is proportionate to the level of impacts on the development site; where there are queries with regards the number or siting of boxes this can be discussed with the council's planning ecologist.

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

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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