



My Ref: FOI 6427
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: -

My request is in relation to the removal of flags from public spaces, including lampposts and similar street furniture, in terms of numbers, costs and who carried out the work.

For each of the following financial years:

- 2022/23
- 2023/24
- 2024/25
- 2025/26

Please provide:

- 1. The number of flags removed by, or on behalf of, the council.**

This information is not recorded by us or the contractor.

- 2. The council's recorded expenditure on removing them, including payments to contractors and any separately recorded internal costs.**

2025/26 – £13730.18. There are no earlier years as we started using this service last year.

- 3. If recorded, a breakdown by the type of flag removed – for example, the Union Flag, Saltire, St George's Cross or another flag type.**

This information is not recorded.

- 4. Whether the removal work was undertaken by council employees, a council-owned company or an external contractor.**

External contractor

5. The name of any external contractor, supplier or council-owned company used.

We have determined that providing any information regarding third party contractors linked to this request would present a real risk to the safety and wellbeing of the individuals involved. There is concern that revealing who delivers works for BMBC regarding the removal of any attachments could cause them to be targeted with abuse, threats or violence. The council does not believe there is legitimate public interest in knowing who carries out the works but how much they cost. As such, the potential for harm outweighs the public interest in disclosure in this instance. Therefore, under Section 38(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this information is exempt from disclosure.

6. The council department or team responsible where the work was completed internally. I am not requesting the names of individual employees.

Not applicable

7. Any associated contract, purchase-order or invoice reference, if recorded.

We have determined that providing any information regarding third party contractors linked to this request would present a real risk to the safety and wellbeing of the individuals involved. There is concern that revealing who delivers works for BMBC regarding the removal of any attachments could cause them to be targeted with abuse, threats or violence. The council does not believe there is legitimate public interest in knowing who carries out the works but how much they cost. As such, the potential for harm outweighs the public interest in disclosure in this instance. Therefore, under Section 38(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this information is exempt from disclosure.

8. The amount paid to each contractor or supplier for this work.

We have determined that providing any information regarding third party contractors linked to this request would present a real risk to the safety and wellbeing of the individuals involved. There is concern that revealing who delivers works for BMBC regarding the removal of any attachments could cause them to be targeted with abuse, threats or violence. The council does not believe there is legitimate public interest in knowing who carries out the works but how much they cost. As such, the potential for harm outweighs the public interest in disclosure in this instance. Therefore, under Section 38(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this information is exempt from disclosure.

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Where event-level information is unavailable, please provide an annual breakdown. If contractor costs formed part of a wider contract and cannot be separately identified, please provide the contractor's name, the relevant contract and the total recorded contract value, while stating that flag-removal costs are not separately recorded.

**If no flags were removed during a year, please record the figure as zero.
If information is not held or removal costs are not recorded separately, please state that clearly.**

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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