



My Ref: FOI4901
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: -

Use of Private Investigators Dear [Barnsley Council / Berneslai Homes] FOI Team,
Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information:

1. Please provide details of any occasions where your organisation has engaged or instructed private investigators / private detective agencies since 1st January 2015. For each case, please provide: • The date(s) of instruction. • The reason/purpose for hiring the investigator. • The agency/company name and services contracted. • The total cost incurred (broken down by year). • Whether the instruction was authorised internally or by an external legal team. • Copies of any relevant policies, procedures, or guidance documents used to justify or govern the use of private investigators.

2. Please confirm if any staff members, tenants, or former staff members have ever been the subject of such investigations, and if so, the total number of cases. (No personal identifiers are requested, just aggregate figures.)

3. Please also confirm if members of the public, campaigners, activists, journalists, political opponents, councillors, or candidates for election have ever been the subject of such investigations since 1st January 2015. Again, no personal identifiers are requested, only aggregate figures and the reason given for authorisation.

Please be advised that, following a thorough review of our records, Barnsley Council and Berneslai Homes have not engaged or instructed private investigators or private detective agencies since 1 January 2015.

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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