



My Ref: FOI 6444
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: -

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information about civil court claims in which Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council is or was a defendant.

For all civil claims issued against the council in the County Court or High Court in the six months to the date of this request, please provide for each claim:

- 1. The claim number**
- 2. The court at which the claim was issued or is proceeding**
- 3. The date the claim was issued**
- 4. The general nature of the claim, using the council's own categorisation (e.g. housing disrepair, highways, personal injury, employment, contract)**
- 5. The current status of the claim (e.g. defence filed, settled, discontinued, judgment entered)**

To be clear, I am NOT requesting the names of any claimants or any other personal data, and this information should be excluded from the response. I am aware that under CPR 5.4C(1) the statements of case in defended civil claims are in any event publicly accessible from the court, so the information requested here does not disclose anything the open justice framework does not already make available.

Please include claims that are being handled on the council's behalf by insurers or external solicitors, as this information is held on behalf of the council for FOIA purposes.

If any part of this request would exceed the cost limit, please advise under your section 16 duty how it could be refined — for example by shortening the time period — rather than refusing it in full.

Providing all the information requested would make this request exempt under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. This is because the information requested is not readily available. It is estimated that the time taken to provide the information would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act is a provision which allows a public authority to refuse to comply with the request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed a set limit known as the appropriate limit. In this case

it is estimated that to search for the information you have requested it will take more than the 18 hours, equivalent to a cost of £450 and this is the basis of the decision.

However we can provide:

41 civil cases issued – the breakdown is as follows:

- 18 Closure Order applications
- 21 Possession of property applications
- 2 Access Injunctions.

32 civil cases issued – the breakdown is as follows:

- 10 Public Liability Cases
- 21 Housing Disrepair Cases
- 1 Employers Liability case.

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>

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PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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