



My Ref: FOI/4400
Your Ref:
Date: 15/05/2025
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:-

Your questions and my findings are below:-

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information regarding certain endangered buildings located within your jurisdiction. Please find below a detailed outline of the information I seek in relation to the council's handling of heritage buildings at risk at large, and specifically the following building: Grimethorpe Hall, Brierley Road (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/heritage-at-risk/search-register/list-entry/47168>). The data I wish to get is between 2020 and the most recent date for which data is available. Please could you provide the following for each building mentioned:

- 1. Workforce - A year-by-year breakdown of the workforce working in the department/team responsible for issuing and enforcing notices (e.g. urgent works, repairs, Section 215), as well as doing the ongoing work required to stay on top of listed buildings at risk which are under the council's jurisdiction. - To get a sense of their workload, please provide a short explanation of the department/team roles and responsibilities, including but not limited to the listed buildings.**

- 2. Decision-Making and Consultations - A list of any third-party organisations/companies consulted (e.g. Historic England, SAVE Britain's Heritage, the Victorian Society). - Any related correspondence, formal advice, or summary notes shared with or received from these bodies. - If available and held, council records such as meeting minutes, reports, or memos relating to decisions made about Grimethorpe Hall. - If these are already published, and the council applies Section 21, please direct me to where I can access them.**

3. Reports and Assessments - Copies of any condition surveys, structural assessments, viability studies, or risk assessments conducted for Grimethorpe Hall.

4. Budgets and Expenditure - Details of any budgets allocated, funds spent, or financial assistance provided (either directly by the council or through external grants/donations administered by the council) for maintenance, protection, redevelopment, or marketing of these buildings, broken down by year. - If funds from any source have been spent on these buildings, please provide the following details: - The amount spent - The funding source (e.g. specific grant, donor, council funds) - The intended outcome - Any conditions attached to external funding

5. Notices - What notices were issued regarding these building(s), if any? - If issued, when? - If issued, what enforcement steps were taken to ensure compliance?

6. Future Plans - Please provide any draft or final council-held documents outlining plans for disposal, sale, redevelopment, restoration, or reuse of the building(s). This includes strategies, consultation papers, or formal agreements.

7. Ownership - According to Historic England, the crown owns these sites. Please elaborate which body/organisation is in charge of these sites on behalf of the crown (e.g. the council, the crown estate, etc).

Format I would prefer the information to be provided in an Excel or CSV spreadsheet where possible, with documents supplied as PDFs. If necessary, due to cost limit or other exemptions, please provide a summary rather than full documents. If some of the requested documents are publicly available, please provide direct links to locate them. Priority If this request is likely to exceed the appropriate cost limit, please prioritise the response in the following order:

- 1. Ownership**
- 2. Notices**
- 3. Decision-Making and Consultations**
- 4. Workforce (omit year-by-year breakdown; provide only current staffing and a short summary of the team's responsibilities)**
- 5. Future Plans**
- 6. Reports and Assessments**
- 7. Budgets and Expenditure**

Please acknowledge receipt of this request. Should you require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and assistance.

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1. Workforce

From 2020 to date, the council had one full time member of staff (a Senior Conservation Officer). From 2023 a Historic Environment Assistant Apprentice was also employed. The Senior Conservation Officer is either responsible for or assists with (but is not limited to):

- All Planning, conservation area, and listed building consent consultations that relate to the historic built environment in the borough (there are 698 designated assets excluding Scheduled Ancient Monuments)
- Pre-application enquiries that relate to the historic built environment in the borough
- Assists with all enforcement matters that relate to the historic built environment (there is also a dedicated enforcement team of 2x FTE)
- Conservation appraisals and management plans
- Technical (repair maintenance etc.) and procedural (Planning etc.) advice in relation to the council's portfolio of listed and historic buildings or sites
- Specialist advice in relation to projects that affect the historic environment
- All general enquiries or other matters related to the historic built environment in the borough
- Listed buildings at risk

2. Decision Making and Consultations

From 2020 to date, Historic England have been aware of the current condition of Grimethorpe Hall as the building is on their national Heritage at Risk Register, see: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/heritage-at-risk/search-register/list-entry/47168>

Informal discussions have taken place with Historic England over Grimethorpe Hall, and the issues with regards to its ownership (the building is owned by the Crown Estate), its dilapidation, and how it might be brought back into use. However, there are no formal records of meetings. No formal consultation on decisions the council might wish to take has taken place (i.e. Enforcement, CPO, etc.).

3. Reports and Assessments

From 2020 to date, no condition surveys, structural reports, viability studies or risk assessments have been commissioned by the council. A drone survey was carried out last year by Historic England, but the council does not have this file. We understand a brief summary assessment of the building based on this drone survey has been made by Historic England. However, this is not a formal survey or structural assessment, as a site visit was not made.

4. Budgets and Expenditure

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From 2020 to date, there are no allocated funds or expenditure, external grants, or donations received.

5. Notices, Enforcement

From 2020 to date, there have been no enforcement notices served. The council cannot issue enforcement notices or take enforcement action due to the ownership status of the building. Grimethorpe Hall was an ownerless asset and has been subject to Escheat. The building is now held by the Crown Estate, which bars the council from taking enforcement action.

6. Future Plans

From 2020 to date, there are no draft or final plans for the building that outline disposal, sale, redevelopment, restoration, or reuse.

7. Ownership.

From 2020 to date, Grimethorpe Hall has been owned by the Crown Estate. The council is not in charge of and does not administer any matter on behalf of the Crown Estate. 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

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PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

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

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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