BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

My Ref: FOI/ 4612
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: -

1) **Does the council collect data on how many of its residents are living full-time in a caravan?**

The Council collects data specifically in relation to gypsy and travellers which informs the Councils Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA)

Berneslai Homes manage one designated Gypsy/Traveller site. We do not collect data on how many individuals reside there, as licensees are not required to share this information.

2) **If yes, what is the most recent data on how many such residents there are? Please specify the time period for which this figure applies, and any relevant detail on how it was calculated – eg. is it number of residents or number of households?**

Please see link to the Councils information:

https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/l4rlx0lt/gypsy-and-traveller-5-year-supply-note-2024.pdf

As of 08/07/2025 all designated plots at the site managed by Berneslai Homes on behalf of Barnsley Council are occupied.

3) **Is it known what proportion of caravan dwellers are from Gypsy or Traveller communities? If yes, please specify the proportion.**

See above link
All occupants are from Gypsy/Traveller communities.

4) **If data is not formally collected on residents living full-time in a caravan, is the council aware of whether there are any such residents locally?**

This data set is currently unknown.

5) **Has the council ever used caravans to temporarily accommodate people who would otherwise be homeless? If so, how many people are currently housed in this way?**

No.

6) **Does the council have strategic plans which incorporate the use of caravans as temporary accommodation?**

No.

7) **Is the council taking any actions to assure itself of the electrical safety of caravans being used as dwellings? If yes, please briefly detail the types of actions being taken.**

No

Caravans are privately owned or rented, and are not the property of Berneslai Homes or Barnsley Council, therefore we are not responsible for the safety of utilities within the caravans. However, the site has brick and mortar utility blocks which are subject to annual safety inspections and repairs when faults have been identified.

8) **In the past 12 months, has the council offered caravan dwellers any specific advice or support on electrical safety in their vehicle?**

No

Occupants of the site managed by Berneslai Homes on behalf of Barnsley Council are offered the same general electrical safety information in line with all other customers. Specific advice has not been provided.

9) **Does the council collect any information on a) how caravan dwellers are accessing electricity and b) which electrical items they are using? If so, please share details.**

After reviewing our records, we can confirm that we do not hold specific information on individual electricity connections. However, to the best of our knowledge, all sites currently in use are connected to the national electricity grid

All caravans at the Traveller site managed by Berneslai Homes are connected to mains electricity, which is metered on each individual plot.

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10) Into the remit of which a) councillor/s and b) officer/s does the wellbeing and safety of caravan dwellers fall?

The welfare and safety of members of the Gypsy and Traveller community is considered by officers as part of the determination of planning applications.

In regard to the site managed by Berneslai Homes on behalf of Barnsley Council, there is not any direct responsibility for wellbeing and safety of caravan dwellers. However, there is a general obligation for staff to report any concerns to be investigated by the relevant teams / directed to the most appropriate agency.

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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