

Date: 02.02.2023
Our reference: FOI-9498
Contact: Kelly Murphy
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Dear Hannah Jewell

**YOUR REQUEST DATED 17.01.2023 FOR INFORMATION UNDER THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000. OUR REFERENCE: FOI 9498**

Thank you for your above request.

In your correspondence you have requested the information set out below and in what follows I set out the Council's response:

REQUEST

1a. How many staff does the Council directly employ (excluding contractors or subcontractors, and excluding teachers), that work directly for the Council as opposed to a school, leisure centres or other venture?

1b. How many directly employed staff spend 3 or more days per week (0.6 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)) on implementing the Climate Action Plan or other climate change projects? Please provide a list of all the roles. Please exclude waste management staff unless they are specifically working 3 or more days per week on implementing the Climate Action Plan or other climate change projects.

If you have answered yes to have a biodiversity planning officer and/or a retrofit staff member below, both these staff members can be included in this question even if they are contracted. This is likely to include all staff in your climate/sustainability team, such as Climate Change Officers or similar. This may include full time staff who spend 60% of their time on climate change projects and 40% of their time on other work.

You might include other staff in other departments, such as a procurement officer if they are spending 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE) on writing and implementing a sustainable procurement policy or a planner that is working primarily on low carbon policies for new buildings.



2. Does the council have one or more staff member who works on home energy efficiency retrofitting, such as retrofit officers or project managers across the council area, for 3 or more days per week (0.6+ FTE)? This can include both directly employed and contracted staff, provided they work 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE). The work of this officer may include working on any retrofit projects, including council buildings, council homes or private rented or owned households.

Please list any roles that work in this area, including the full time equivalent (FTE) if they work part time.

Please include staff members that are shared with other councils, such as between county and district councils, and note if they are shared across other areas.

3. How many planning ecologists (ecologists within the planning department) or equivalent working for 3 or more days per week (0.6+ FTE) does the council employ to scrutinise planning reports for Biodiversity Net Gain? This can include both directly employed and contracted staff, provided they work 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE).

Further information explaining the Council's process for responding to information requests is available on our website at <http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/open-data/freedom-of-information/how-to-make-an-information-request>.

Should you have any further queries or information needs, or if you are unhappy about the way your request has been handled, then please do not hesitate to contact me, or the Council's Legal Governance department at: foi@dacorum.gov.uk, quoting reference FOI 9498, please.

RESPONSE

1a) Approximately 750 Full time equivalent staff

1b) 1 Sustainability officer (FTE 0.85)

(1 Climate and ecological program lead post is currently vacant)

Plus the 2 retrofit staff mentioned in question 2.

So currently 4 in total that meet the criteria outlined.

2) 1 FTE on a fixed term contract Project Surveyor to lead on the delivery of SHDFWave 1

1 FTE interim officer to lead on the housing climate change agenda

(1 Home Energy Conservation Officer (FTE 0.5)

3) The Council does not employ any planning ecologists or equivalent working for 3 or more days per week to scrutinise planning reports for Biodiversity Net Gain

I would confirm that, pursuant to Section 50 of the FOIA, you may apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision whether, in any specified respect, your request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of Part 1 of the FOIA. The Commissioner would of course make a decision on any application unless certain circumstances apply, one of which is that the relevant

public authority's complaints procedure has not been exhausted. I would confirm the Information Commissioner's contact details are as follows:-

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Helpline: 0303 123 1113

Website, with online form: www.ico.gov.uk and email for online complaint:
casework@ico.org.uk

If you need further assistance, do please contact me or the information service, as indicated above.

Yours sincerely.

Kelly Murphy
Sustainability Officer
Transformation Team