

**Committee Services and Scrutiny**

London Borough of Bexley  
Civic Offices  
2 Watling Street  
Bexleyheath  
Kent  
DA6 7AT  
[www.bexley.gov.uk](http://www.bexley.gov.uk)



m/r 9248248

y/r

akin.alabi@bexley.gov.uk

The person dealing with this matter is: Akin Alabi

Direct Dial

0203 045 3922

Date

24<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear Mr Singh

**Re: Internal Review**

I am writing to you regarding your request for an internal review of our handling of your Freedom of Information request. I apologise for the delay in providing you with a response and for any inconvenience this may have caused. I have now had the opportunity to review the way we dealt with your request for information.

I can confirm that I am satisfied that the council's handling of your initial request was correct, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

As you will be aware, your request was for the age, ethnicity, gender and name of individual members of our Planning Committee. In our response we provided a link to the name and gender of all members. The committee consists of 19 councillors. It was confirmed that we do not hold the information you require on their age or ethnicity however in your internal review request, you asked us to find this.

I can confirm that records have been searched across the council and I am satisfied that we do not hold the age or ethnicity on those concerned. The right to request information under the Freedom of Information Act covers information that is recorded and held by a public authority. We are not required to create or 'find' new information under the legislation, as you have requested.

It is worth noting that if we did hold the information, it is probable that individuals would be identifiable from the details. Information which reveals personal details would be exempt from disclosure in any case.

For your ease of reference, I have provided the link to the information held by Bexley below:

<https://democracy.bexley.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=144>

You are being referred to the information via a link as we consider the absolute exemption set out under Section 21 (reasonably accessible) of the Freedom of Information Act applies. This is because the information is publicly available on our website. I acknowledge that this exemption should have been quoted alongside the link in our initial response to your request.

I hope my response is clear however if you have any queries or concerns, please contact me using the details at the top of this letter.

If you remain unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Telephone 0303 123 1133  
[www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Akin Alabi  
Deputy Director for Legal & Democratic Services