

14 June 2017
Our ref: 3679796

Thank you for your request received on 5 June 2017, for the following information:

For every property sold by Barnet Council for a sum of £20,000 or less, in the past 10 years, I would like to know:

1. Year of sale (exact date if available)
2. Address of property
3. How much the property was sold for
4. Nature of proprietary interest (freehold, leasehold, license)
5. In the case of properties sold for £1 or £0, please provide a brief explanation as to why the property was essentially given away.
6. Identity of buyer
7. Method of sale (auction, private tender, etc)

If the above request would exceed the appropriate cost limit, please re-frame it to only encompass the past 5 years, or less, as necessary.

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

We are refusing your request under section 12 because we estimate that compliance with your request will exceed the "appropriate limit" under section 12. The appropriate limit is £450 which is equivalent to 18 hours at £25 per hour. The per hour figure is set by Regulations rather than actual salary paid to any officers handling requests. The appropriate limit includes the time it will take the council to discover if it holds the information requested, to locate it, extract it and collate it as well as putting it into any particular format requested by the requester.

We have calculated that it will take approx 30 hours to comply with your request because:

1. our records, whilst they do go back to 2010, are in a format that will require detailed interrogation of each transaction which will take time to ascertain if they fall within the request parameters, and if so to extract the information requested;
2. not all disposals were transacted by property services as some would have been undertaken by (for example green spaces or the legal team) so there would need to be comparison of information as the relevant systems are not integrated, to ensure no duplicates were included due to inconsistent naming conventions.

Whilst your request asks the council to re frame the request to meet the 18 hours time limit, this is not possible under the Act as this does not provide a defined request for the council to handle.

Advice and Assistance

It is likely that if you resubmitted your request asking for information from April 2012 the council would be able to answer this request within the appropriate limit as records were stored in a more accessible format from that time.

Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: xxx@xxxxxx.xxx.xx. Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) The London Borough of Barnet, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London, N11 1NP

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.