



Core Services Directorate
Joint Authorities Governance Unit
Service Director: Martin McCarthy

By email to:
Andy Mabbett
What do they know
[request-545242-
bee2e99f@whatdotheyknow.com](#)

My Ref: FOIA 3526
Your Ref:
Date: 12 February 2019
Enquiries to: Mrs Jane Buchan
Direct Dial: 01226 772445
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Mr Mabbett

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the Core Services Directorate has now completed its search for the information which you requested by e-mail on 15 January 2019.

Your questions and my findings are as follows:-

The part of the South Yorkshire Joint Authorities website which lists "meetings, agendas and minutes" [2] includes a file [3] which instructs third parties (such as Google and other search engines) not to index the site; and has done so for at least three years.

Please provide me with copies of any internal correspondence related to the decision to apply this measure; and any review of it (including discussion of, or responses to, any complaints received about it) since it was initiated. Please include any advice provided by external consultants on the matter; and any instructions to apply or revise it that have been issued to your IT staff or contractors.

There is no internal correspondence related to this matter. The Software which controls and determines access to the referenced pages is proprietary coding and the property of the service provider, Modern Mindset. We operate in deference to the professional judgement of the Company and no complaints or responses have been received to date to warrant this matter to be challenged. We are therefore comfortable that the robots.txt file put in as default by the service provider to prevent spam/search bots crawling the site is appropriate and prevents the risk of bots slowing the site down.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact on (01226). 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

Customer Feedback and Improvement Team
C/O Corporate Mail Room
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG

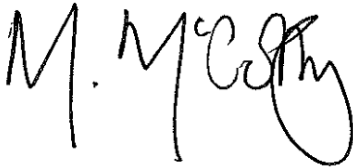
Email: Informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

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

Website address: <http://www.ico.org.uk>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. McCarthy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Martin McCarthy
Service Director, Joint Authorities Governance Unit

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

(©) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council 1st September 2013.

This information is a relevant copyright work for the purposes of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. It is owned solely by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council but is available for re-use without charge, including for commercial purposes, in accordance with the terms of the Open Government Licence found at The National Archives Website <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence>

When re- using the information please ensure that you:

Acknowledge the copyright and source of the information by including the following attribution statement: "Contains Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council information (©) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Licensed under the Open Government Licence."

Include the same acknowledgement in any sub-licences you grant, and a requirement that any further sub-licences do the same.

Do not use the information in a way that suggests that the Council endorses you or your use of the information.

The information is licensed "as is". The Council is not liable for any errors or omissions in the information and shall not be liable for any loss, injury or damage of any kind caused by its use.

PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG