

28 June 2018
Our ref: 4491000

Thank you for your request received on 4 June 2018, for the following information:
Dear Barnet Borough Council,

I would like to request the following information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

According to the latest Building Safety Programme release from the Department for Housing Communities and Local Government, Barnet Council has between 1 and 5 buildings (defined by DHCLG as residential buildings over 18m tall or public buildings) with cladding systems that have failed large scale system tests.

Could you provide me with a list of any such buildings, and whether they are publicly or privately owned?

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

Response

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds the information you requested.

However, we consider that the following exemptions apply to some of the information requested. The remaining information is not withheld and is below.

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The council is the landlord for three blocks over 18 metres tall (11 storeys) which failed the cladding tests. These are Granville Point, Harpenmead Point and Templewood Point. The full address for these are all Granville Road, London NW2 2LJ. The planning application number relevant to the cladding works is F/03903/10. Details of all planning applications can be viewed at:

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/planning-conservation-and-buildingcontrol/submit-a-planning-application/view-or-comment-on-a-planningapplication.html>

The Committee received a fire safety report on 23 October 2017 which sets out that the Council had already decided to remove the cladding system and this work has now been completed. Barnet Homes are now working with consultants and contractors to identify a suitable replacement system, with the aim of installing this by Winter 2018. The report can be read in full at:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=699&MId=9237&Ver=4>

All Housing Committee reports are accessible online at:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=699>

We consider that the qualified exemption set out in Section 38 (Health and safety) subsection 1 applies to some of the information requested. Therefore, we have decided to withhold the information relating to privately owned blocks. Please see the public interest and prejudice test below

In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the interest in favour of disclosure.

Factors in favour of disclosure

- Furthering the understanding and participation in the public debate of issues of the day.
- Promoting accountability and transparency by public authorities for decisions taken by them.
- Promoting accountability and transparency in the spending of public money.
- Allowing individuals, companies and other bodies to understand decisions made by public authorities affecting their lives.
- Bringing to light information affecting public health and safety

Factors in favour of withholding

- It is vital that residents are kept fully informed about the safety of their own buildings and this commitment will continue to be met through the appropriate channels however we believe there are public safety risks associated with releasing comprehensive lists, that allows buildings with cladding likely to present a hazard to be easily identified. We have decided it is appropriate to withhold information that could lead to the identification of affected buildings

In the absence of evidence, other than MHCLG advice from Cabinet Office, we cannot be certain arson will occur, only that it is likely.

In all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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.