

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) Decision notice

Date: 17 April 2025

Public Authority: Barnet Homes Limited

Address: talktous@barnethomes.org

Request:

The complainant requested the following information from Barnet Homes Limited on 7 February 2025:

Commented [A1]: I think you need to add this in from the request as it references the nature of the information he is seeking. 'To ensure transparency, please provide clear...'

'To ensure transparency, please provide clear and structured responses, including any relevant internal policies, procedural guidelines, and statistical data where applicable. If a response is "Yes" or "No", please include a justification detailing how the decision was reached and which factors were considered.

1. What internal policies does Barnet Homes follow when assessing whether a housing relocation is suitable for an elderly applicant with health needs, mobility limitations, or cognitive decline?
2. How does Barnet Homes determine whether an elderly applicant with health conditions and mobility limitations qualifies for Band 1 priority or exceptional circumstances?
3. How does Barnet Homes assess the risk of cognitive decline when deciding to relocate an elderly resident with a diagnosed memory impairment?
4. How does Barnet Homes ensure that an elderly resident's upcoming surgery is not disrupted by relocation?
5. If an elderly individual is currently undergoing major surgery or treatment, does Barnet Homes consider relocation to be a safeguarding risk?

6. If an elderly individual is due to undergo surgery within four weeks, what legal and ethical guidelines does Barnet Homes follow to determine whether a housing offer should be postponed?

7. How does Barnet Homes ensure compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2020) when deciding to relocate an elderly person with a memory condition, considering that dementia and cognitive impairment are protected characteristics under the Act?

8. What measures does Barnet Homes have in place to prevent Relocation Stress Syndrome, a recognised medical condition that can cause confusion, anxiety, and cognitive deterioration in elderly individuals?

9. Has Barnet Homes conducted any risk assessments or case studies on the impact of relocation on elderly individuals with memory conditions, major surgeries, or high medical needs in the past three years?

10. How does Barnet Homes internally document and assess the risk of displacement for elderly and vulnerable residents?

11. How many cases in the past three years have been deemed unsuitable due to carer support breakdown?

12. If a dependent is moved away from their carer, what safeguards are in place to ensure this does not create an emergency burden on Adult Social Care services?

13. Has Barnet Homes conducted any internal reviews on the financial impact on Adult Social Care services if an applicant loses access to informal or family carers due to relocation?

14. What training do Barnet Homes housing officers receive to ensure they properly assess medical, cognitive, and safeguarding risks when offering housing placements?

Commissioner's Decision:

A public authority will breach section 10 of FOIA if it fails to respond to a request within 20 working days. Based on evidence available to the Commissioner, by the date of this notice the public authority has not issued a substantive response to this request. Therefore the Commissioner finds a breach of section 10.

Steps:

Reference: IC-369312-R0C8



The public authority must provide a substantive response to the request in accordance with its obligations under FOIA.

The public authority must take this step within 30 calendar days of the date of this decision notice. Failure to comply may result in the Commissioner making written certification of this fact to the High Court pursuant to section 54 of FOIA and may be dealt with as a contempt of court.

Right of Appeal:

Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)
GRC & GRP Tribunals
PO Box 9300
LEICESTER
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0203 936 8963
Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: grc@justice.gov.uk
Website: www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber

Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF