2 Bristol Avenue
Colindale
NW9 4EW
7 September 2026
Our ref: 18543897

Thank you for your request received on 4 September 2026, for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information relating to London Borough of Barnet's participation in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Augmented Planning Decisions pilot (the AI planning tool developed with Google Cloud, Google DeepMind and Faculty, in testing since May 2026).

1. Any baseline measurement of decision times for householder planning applications recorded by the council, or provided to the council by MHCLG, DSIT or the supplier, before or at the start of the pilot, including the method used to calculate it.

2. Any recorded count of householder planning applications on which the pilot tool has been used by council officers, including any monthly breakdown that is held.

3. Any report, evaluation, KPI return or structured feedback the council has provided to MHCLG, DSIT or the supplier about the pilot.

4. Any memorandum of understanding, participation agreement or data sharing agreement between the council and MHCLG, DSIT or the supplier relating to the pilot.

If any part of this request would exceed the cost limit under section 12, please advise which part and provide the remainder. If you require clarification, I would be grateful for advice and assistance under section 16.

We have processed this request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Response

The council holds the information requested and it is attached/ the answers to your questions are below

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information relating to London Borough of Barnet's participation in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Augmented Planning Decisions pilot (the AI planning tool developed with Google Cloud, Google DeepMind and Faculty, in testing since May 2026).

1. Any baseline measurement of decision times for householder planning applications recorded by the council, or provided to the council by MHCLG, DSIT or the supplier, before or at the start of the pilot, including the method used to calculate it.

None supplied.

2. Any recorded count of householder planning applications on which the pilot tool has been used by council officers, including any monthly breakdown that is held.

We are not holding a central count of cases tested with PlanAssist.

3. Any report, evaluation, KPI return or structured feedback the council has provided to MHCLG, DSIT or the supplier about the pilot.

None supplied.

4. Any memorandum of understanding, participation agreement or data sharing agreement between the council and MHCLG, DSIT or the supplier relating to the pilot.

See public contract published by MHCLG. It can be accessed via the link below.

https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/procurement/ocds-h6vhtk-05d4aa

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: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Records & Information Management Service, Assurance Group, London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

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.