Gmail Mark Broome <[redacted]>

Augmented Planning Decisions pilot – reference no. DC/12174

1 message

Freedom of Information <foi@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk> Tue, Sep 29, 2026 at 9:00 AM
To: Mark Broome <[redacted]>

Classified as Official

Dear Mark,

Information Request – reference no. DC/12174

Thank you for your information request dated 3rd September 2026, which has been dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). The EIR is broadly the same as the Freedom of Information Act but covers requests for information about the environment and environmental matters.

Our response to your request is as follows:

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

The pilot used the standard 8-week target for determining householder planning applications as the baseline. Decision times are measured from the date a valid application is received to the date a decision is issued.

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.

The pilot used a sample of 100 determined householder planning applications from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 for testing purposes. The pilot was an alpha-stage exercise using historic planning data only. The pilot did not use any live planning applications.

The pilot was designed to support planning officers by providing reasoned recommendations. It did not make planning decisions and did not replace the professional judgement of planning officers.

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

As the pilot remains at an early stage, Dorset Council has not produced any evaluation reports, finalised KPI returns or formal structured feedback documents.

MHCLG may hold additional feedback or evaluation information generated directly through the pilot programme.

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

Dorset Council do not have a memorandum of understanding, participation agreement or data sharing agreement. Contracts are between MHCLG, Google DeepMind and Faculty. Dorset Council are simply testing their prototype using historic planning data that is already in the public domain.

[redacted]

You may wish to know that you can submit information requests to Dorset Council via our e-form at https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/your-council/about-your-council/freedom-of-information/freedom-of-information.aspx.

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled, you may ask for an internal review within 40 working days of this response. Please fill in our online form if you wish to request a review. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you then have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision – the Information Commissioner can be contacted via their website.

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Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
Information Compliance Officer
Assurance
Dorset Council

dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

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From: Mark Broome <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2026 7:02 PM
To: Freedom of Information <foi@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Augmented Planning Decisions pilot

Dear FOI Team,

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information relating to Dorset Council'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.

Please respond by email to this address.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Broome

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