Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Mark Broome
[redacted]

3 September 2026

Dear Mark Broome,

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – FOI2026/21929

Thank you for your request for information which was received on 5 August 2026 and considered under Freedom of Information.

You requested:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information relating to the Augmented Planning Decisions programme (the AI planning trial operating in Barnet, Camden and Dorset):

1. The success criteria, evaluation framework, or key performance indicators against which the programme is being assessed, as held at the date of this request.

2. Any baseline measurement of planning decision times for the trial authorities recorded before or at the start of the trial, including the methodology used to calculate it.

3. The criteria to be applied in deciding whether to extend the programme to additional local planning authorities.

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 can confirm that some of the information requested is held by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government.

At part (1) of your request you asked for success criteria, evaluation framework, or key performance indicators against which the programme is being assessed.

This information falls within the absolute exemption from disclosure at section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) as this information is already reasonably available, we are therefore not obliged to provide it.

I have set out below where this information can be located.

The success criteria, evaluation framework, and key performance indicators for MHCLG's Augmented Planning Decisions project have been published in the Tender and Contract documentation available through the Gov.UK 'Find a Tender' service here: MHCLG Augmented Planning Decisions - Find a Tender.

Relevant contract schedules include schedules 2, 3, 10, 8, 11, 12, & 17

At part (2) of your request you asked for any baseline measurement of planning decision times for the trial authorities recorded before or at the start of the trial, including the methodology used to calculate it.

MHCLG has not collected baseline measurement of planning decision times from LB Barnet, LB Camden or Dorset Councils for the Augmented Planning Decisions project.

You can access published local planning authority planning statistics at the link below: Live tables on planning application statistics - GOV.UK

At part (3) of your request you asked for the criteria to be applied in deciding whether to extend the programme to additional local planning authorities.

This information falls within the absolute exemption from disclosure at section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) as this information is already reasonably available, we are therefore not obliged to provide it.

The documentation available through the Gov.UK 'Find a Tender' service here: MHCLG Augmented Planning Decisions - Find a Tender also sets out how the project will be managed, including extensions to the programme as requested in part (3).

Relevant contract schedules include schedules 2, 3, & 4

Yours sincerely,

MHCLG FOIA Team

Complaints procedure

If you are unhappy with this response, we will review it and report back to you (this is called an internal review). If you want us to do this, let us know by return email within 40 working days of receiving this response. You can also ask by letter addressed to:

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
Transparency & Data Protection Team
4th Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

If you are still not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by the Department.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted via their online form at ico.org.uk/concerns or call them on 0303 123 1113.