

17 October 2024

Environmental Information Regulations Request, Oxford City Council – Reference: **EIR2024/01042**

Further to our acknowledgement, we can confirm that Oxford City Council can advise as follows in response to your request received on 19 September 2024:

1. Please can you fill in the table below to indicate what, if any, software the council has obtained specifically to help with implementing the following aspects of BNG?

BNG-related need	Software obtained for this purpose
Validation of applications, including checking that the correct version of the Biodiversity Metric has been submitted.	None
Determination of applications subject to BNG, including assessment of ecological considerations.	None
Determining if the biodiversity gain objective (biodiversity gain condition) is met.	None
Monitoring of planning obligations set out under S106 agreements or Conservation Covenants, analogous to other planning obligations.	None
Ecological monitoring of BNG habitats, a new statutory duty required by legislation, including ensuring that individual habitats on a given site are progressing in line with expectations set out in the Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan.	None
Statutory reporting of BNG habitat progress under the NERC Act Biodiversity Duty.	None

2. Is the council generating income, or planning to generate income, by charging BNG monitoring fees? If so, how are you calculating this fee?

The Council has not yet generated income by charging BNG monitoring fees. It is something that will be looked at, but we have no further information at this stage.

3. Please can you fill in the table below, with respect to whether the council has made use of the government's new burdens funding for BNG:

Financial year	BNG burdens funding spent by the council	What this BNG burdens funding was spent on
23/24	£26,807 from the 23/24 grant, plus £3,667 that had been held ring-fenced from the 22/23 grant. Total £30,474.	Reviewing planning applications, internal training for staff, background reading and research, production of a BNG register, planning policy, investigating waterways, preparing feasibility review of internal offsetting sites, site visits.
24/25	£ not yet claimed. We are currently processing this application and do not yet know the amount.	We are currently processing this application and so information is not yet finalised.

If you disagree with any part of the response to your request, you are entitled to ask the Council for an internal review of the decision(s) made. You may do this by writing to the Monitoring Officer, by either email [monitoringofficer@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:monitoringofficer@oxford.gov.uk) – or by post to Monitoring Officer, Oxford City Council, Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1BX. After the result of the internal review, if you remain dissatisfied, you may ask the Information Commissioner to intervene on your behalf. You may do this by writing to the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Officer

| Freedom of Information Team | Law & Governance | Oxford City Council | Town Hall | St Aldate's  
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