

14 July 2025

Freedom of Information Request, Oxford City Council – Reference: **EIR2025/00764**

Further to our acknowledgement, we can confirm that Oxford City Council can advise as follows in response to your Freedom of Information Request received on 8 July:

Request

I am requesting information regarding the implementation and impact of the mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirement on planning applications submitted to your council.

Please provide the following data for the period from 12 February 2024 to the date of your response.

Planning Application Decisions:

- * The total number of planning applications refused where failure to meet the statutory Biodiversity Net Gain requirement was a primary or contributing reason for refusal.

As per Section 21 of FOIA 2000, all planning decisions can be viewed on our public access website. You can search the refusals and the reasons for refusing under each application.

Planning Applications – Oxford City Council

- * The total number of planning applications that have been delayed or had a decision withheld pending the submission or approval of a satisfactory BNG plan.

We do not record this information.

Length of Delays:

- * For the applications delayed due to BNG requirements (as identified in question 1), what has been the average length of the delay, measured in weeks, from the initial target decision date?

We do not record this information.

BNG Enforcement:

- * The total number of enforcement actions or formal investigations the council has initiated related to non-compliance with BNG obligations on approved developments.

None.

- * The total number of financial penalties or fines that have been issued by the council for

breaches of BNG requirements and the total monetary value (£) of these penalties.
None.

Reasons for Planning Delays (Context):

* A list of the five most common reasons cited for delays in determining planning applications within your council since 12 February 2024. If possible, please indicate the percentage of total delays each reason accounts for, to help contextualise the impact of BNG relative to other factors.

We do not record this information.

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 – 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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