



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI678769265

Thank you for your request for information relating to Ecologists.

You have requested the following information:

1. On average, how many planners at senior or management level did your local authority employ in the financial years (a) 2017/18, (b) 2019/20, (c) 2021/23 and d) 2023/24?

This would include senior/principal planners, team leaders and chief planners/heads. If not able to express as an average, perhaps you could confirm the headcount at a specific date or at year-end.

Please see below:

	Headcount	Vacancies
April 2018	9	
April 2019	10	
April 2020	9	2
April 2021	9	
April 2022	19	3
April 2023	21	
April 2024	17	1
February 2025	18	

2. How many ecologists does your local authority currently directly employ?

As well as ecologists/senior ecologists, this would include planning ecologists and

biodiversity officers.

There are currently three ecologists within Planning and Environment.

3. What are the job titles of the ecologists the local authority currently directly employs?

Ecology and Biodiversity Manager

Ecology and Biodiversity Officer x 2

4. How many ecologists left their role between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024?

One Ecology and Biodiversity Officer was seconded to external body (December 2023) and replaced with temporary appointment.

5. On average, how many ecologists did your local authority directly employ in the financial years (a) 2017/18, (b) 2019/20, and (c) 2021/23? Again, if not able to express as an average, perhaps you could confirm the headcount at a specific date or at year-end.

a) 2017/18: 0

b) 2018/19: 0

c) 2019/20: 0.5

d) 2020/21: 1

e) 2021/22: 1

f) 2022/23: 2

g) 2023/24: 3

h) 2024/25: 3

6. On average, how many ecologists at senior or management level did you directly employ in (a) 2017/18 (b) 2019/20 and (c) 2021/23? Again, if not able to express as an average, perhaps you could confirm the headcount at a specific date or at year-end.

a) 2017/18: 0

b) 2018/19: 0

c) 2019/20: 0

d) 2020/21: 0

e) 2021/22: 0

f) 2022/23: 0.5

g) 2023/24: 1

h) 2024/25: 1

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Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance