



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI729579785

Thank you for your request for information relating to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Data.

You have requested the following information:

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.

1. Planning Application Decisions:

1a) 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.

A total of four planning applications were refused for the reason outlined above.

1b) 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.

Nil.

2. Length of Delays:

2a) 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?

Not applicable.

3. BNG Enforcement:

3a) The total number of enforcement actions or formal investigations the council has initiated related to non-compliance with BNG obligations on approved developments.

Nil.

3b) 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.

Nil.

4. Reasons for Planning Delays (Context):

4a) 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.

The main reason why delays may occur is due to ecological issues. Examples of such issues are as follows:

- Out of date ecology survey reports; developers will submit an old report from a previous application
- Insufficient information: limited ecological information provided with key issues neglected.
- Metric issues; Metric submitted but Ecology Officers consider data to be incorrect such that required net gain has not been achieved e.g. habitat condition, overall units provided.

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If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

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

Yours faithfully

Information Governance