REQUEST 17760

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Since the implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) legislation in February 2024:

1. The number of planning applications submitted to your local authority that were considered (a) large sites, (b) small sites as per the BNG classification

2. What percentage of (a) large sites and (b) small sites had completed and submitted the relevant BNG documentation with their application (e.g. statement of applicability, pre-development biodiversity value of the on-site habitat, description of any irreplaceable habitat, on-site habitat plan)?

3. What percentage of (a) large sites and (b) small sites planned to deliver the BNG (a) through fully onsite habitat creation and enhancement, (b) fully offsite compensation or (c) a combination of onsite/offsite

4. The number of planning applications refused based on biodiversity-related concerns

5. The number of staff working on implementing BNG at the end of 2023 and at the end of 2024.

RESPONSE

Q1-4 This information is accessible via the Council's website at the following link. Please utilise the search function available on this webpage accordingly:

Search and comment on planning applications

Support and guidance on how to search the information the Council holds on this section of its website is available on the above webpage, but is also provided in the accompanying 'Public Access User Guide' PDF document and via the link to the relevant page on the Council's website below:

Idox PA for Planning User Guide

Q5. The number of staff spending 100% of their time working on implementing BNG during this period was 0. However, Officers from multiple services within the Council worked on implementing its delivery during this period, and continue to do so, notably Council Officers from Planning and Regeneration and Property and Corporate Assets. The Greater Manchester Ecology Unit shared service also performs a major role in BNG in this sub-region.