



Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding planning applications and biodiversity net gain (BNG) compliance. Specifically, I am requesting the following information, with data broken down by calendar month since 12 February 2024:

1. The total number of planning applications received by your authority that were subject to the mandatory statutory biodiversity net gain (BNG) requirements. (For the avoidance of doubt, please include both applications received that claimed BNG applied to their development AND applications that claimed BNG did not apply on their site (i.e. they claimed an exemption)).
2. The total number of planning applications that:
 - a. Claimed to be exempt from BNG
 - b. Of this number, please provide the number that:
 - i. Claimed they were exempt from the BNG requirements under the householder exemption
 - ii. Claimed they were exempt from the BNG requirements under the de minimis exemption (developments impacting less than 25 square metres of habitat or 5 metres of linear habitat)
 - iii. Claimed they were exempt from the BNG requirements under the self-build and custom-build exemptions
 - iv. Claimed they were exempt from the BNG requirements under different criteria
3. For the answer to 2b(ii), 2b(iii) and 2b(iv) please set out
 - a. How many of these claims of exemption were accepted by the validation team
 - b. Of this number, how many applications provided a complete statutory biodiversity metric sheet or Small Site Metric Sheet to demonstrate that they were genuinely entitled to an exemption

Given this information is not publicly available, please provide it in an accessible format.

Response

This information is available to view on the Council's website, as part of the planning application form and accompanying information. Please click on the following link to access the page:

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Planning-and-Building-Control/Planning/Search-planning-applications.aspx>

Guidance on how to search the information can be found on this page also.

The planning application validation process does not include consideration of the content or planning merits of any information submitted. It is an objective process, aligned to national regulations and the council's adopted validation checklist.