

**Corporate Management**  
**Our ref:** MGLA060116-2376

**Date:** 14 January 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

## **Freedom of Information request**

Thank you for your email of 6 January 2016 in which you requested the release of the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.

*"The total number of planning applications you received in each of the following calendar years: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015.*

*In each of the above years I would also like to know the following information:*

- The number of applications that were major developments and the number that were ordinary applications*
- The number of major development applications that received a formal decision within the statutory 13 week time limit*
- The proportion of major development applications that were initially rejected*
- The number of major development applications, including appeals, that took between 13 and 26 weeks to receive a final decision*
- The number of major development applications, including appeals, that took between 26 and 52 weeks to receive a final decision*
- The number of major development applications, including appeals, that took more than 52 weeks to receive to a final decision*
- The proportion of ordinary applications that received a formal decision within the statutory 8 week time limit.*
- The proportion of ordinary applications that were initially rejected*
- The proportion of ordinary applications, including appeals, that took between 8 and 26 weeks to receive a final decision*
- The proportion of ordinary applications, including appeals, that took between 26 and 52 weeks to receive a final decision*
- The proportion of ordinary applications, including appeals, that took more than 52 weeks to receive to a final decision*

The Mayor is consulted on all planning applications that are of potential strategic importance to London. However, as a statutory consultee, and not a determining authority, we do not hold information relevant to your request, which you will need to seek from each individual planning authority. Further information on the Mayor's planning powers can be found via the following link: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/planning-applications-and-decisions/what-powers-does-mayor-have-planning>

I can confirm that, for the years you requested, the Mayor received the following number of strategic referrals from all London Boroughs:

City Hall, London, SE1 2AA - london.gov.uk - mayor@london.gov.uk - 020 7983 4000

Year	No. of referrals
<b>2010</b>	233
<b>2011</b>	239
<b>2012</b>	271
<b>2013</b>	269
<b>2014</b>	323
<b>2015</b>	454

The Mayor's planning powers extend to include the ability to 'take-over' an application for his own determination; in such circumstances, the Mayor becomes the decision-making authority. The Mayor has exercised this power a total of sixteen times and I can confirm the following key dates for these cases which reflect most appropriately the nature of your original request.

Name	Date of original submission to council	Date of referral to GLA	Date of representation hearing	Date of decision notice issued
<b>Hertsmere House</b>	24 December 2008	19 January 2009	7 October 2009	2 December 2009
<b>Southall Gas Works</b>	9 October 2008 – Ealing council	9 March 2009	25 March 2010	29 September 2010
	4 March 2009 – Hillingdon council			
<b>Saatchi Block</b>	21 January 2011	17 February 2011	19 September 2011	27 June 2011
<b>SITA Recycling Park</b>	2 October 2008	22 October 2008	12 October 2011	29 March 2012
<b>London Fruit and Wool Exchange</b>	1 September 2011	4 October 2011	10 October 2012	28 March 2013
<b>Southwark Free School</b>	25 March 2013	2 April 2013	19 December 2013	18 June 2014
<b>Holy Trinity Primary School</b>	4 March 2013	8 March 2013	18 November 2013	11 December 2013
<b>Eileen House</b>	23 February 2009	10 March 2009	19 November 2013	7 January 2014
<b>Convoys Wharf</b>	29 April 2013	30 May 2013	31 March 2014	10 March 2015
<b>City Forum 250 City Road</b>	8 April 2013	7 May 2013	1 April 2014	26 August 2014
<b>Mount Pleasant Sorting Office</b>	28 June 2013	10 July 2013	3 October 2014	30 March 2015
<b>56-70 Putney High Street</b>	13 January 2015	19 January 2015	27 October 2015	tbc
<b>Trocoll House</b>	27 May 2015	27 May 2015	11 December 2015	tbc
<b>Blossom Street</b>	22 January 2015	6 February 2015	18 January 2016	tbc
<b>Monmouth House</b>	5 August 2015	5 August 2015	8 February 2016	tbc
<b>Bishopsgate Goodsynd</b>	30 September 2014	20 October 2014	tbc	tbc

Further information on all sixteen cases can be found via the following link: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/planning-applications-and-decisions/public-hearings>

- *I would also like to know the number of full time and part time staff, whether permanent or casual, who currently work in your planning department and how that number has changed each year from 2010.*

The following numbers are either permanent or fixed term contract staff and are taken as at April each year:

**2010** – 46 full time; 2 part time

**2011** – 44 full time; 3 part time

**2012** – 43 full time; 6 part time

**2013** – 44 full time; 5 part time

**2014** – 43 full time; 5 part time

**2015** – 49 full time; 5 part time

- *I would also like to know how many people working in your planning department have been formally disciplined or dismissed for misconduct since 2010, and in each case a summary of the reason”*

There was 1 dismissal in December 2012. We cannot release the reason for dismissal as this would lead to the identification of that individual. This information would therefore constitute personal data, as defined under the Data Protection Act.

This information is therefore exempt from release into the public domain under section 40(2) of the FoI Act as its disclosure in response to this request would constitute unfair and unlawful processing of that personal data, contravening the first Data Protection Principle of the Data Protection Act.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, ensuring that you quote the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

**Meena Shah**

Information Governance Officer

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the complaints procedure, available at: <http://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/greater-london-authority-gla/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>