

FOI Reference Number: FOI/439/1819

Date: 11/01/2019

Request:

Please find below a submission under the Freedom of Information Act.

I ask that if there are any questions you cannot answer that you leave them blank and answer the remainder that you CAN answer.

A note to clarify the terminology I have used:

- A Gypsy or Traveller ‘pitch’ is where one family or individual might live.
- A Gypsy or Traveller ‘site’ is where there are a number of pitches in one location.
- A Gypsy or Traveller ‘unauthorised encampment’ is when a family or individual has stopped on land that isn’t their own.

Many thanks,

1. How many Gypsy and Traveller unauthorised encampments have you cleared from the local authority in:
 - i) 2015
 - ii) 2016
 - iii) 2017
 - iv) 2018(if possible please name them)

2. In relation to the cleared encampments listed in question one, how many pitches were in each cleared encampment.

(If you do not know, please state whether, to the best of your knowledge, there were any individuals or families living in the cleared encampments.)

3. How many NEW authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches were created by your local authority in:
 - i) 2015
 - ii) 2016
 - iii) 2017
 - iv) 2018(if possible please name them)

4. How many authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches are there currently in your local authority?

5. What were the full evictions costs to your council for all cleared unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments in:
 - i) 2015
 - ii) 2016
 - iii) 2017
 - iv) 2018(These costs should include staff costs and resources, any contractor costs, court costs and legal fees, clear up costs as well as any other costs relating to evictions from unauthorised encampments.)

6. How much money was spent in the creation of authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches and sites in:
 - i) 2015
 - ii) 2016
 - iii) 2017
 - iv) 2018

7. Are you considering or are there any plans in place to seek a court injunction against unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments sites in your local authority? If you already have an injunction or already have an application in please state.
8. When was the last time you undertook a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Need Assessment?
9. What was the need identified by your authority's most recent Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Need Assessment for new pitches, and what period does this GTANA cover?

Response:

Thank you for your information request which Mid and East Antrim Borough Council received on 08/01/2019.

Please find below Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's response to the information you requested in relation to Gypsy and Traveller pitches and sites.

Please note the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council do not own or operate 'Gypsy and Traveller' pitches and sites.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of part of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Chief Executive at the Braid Ballymena Town Hall, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ.

Please remember to quote the reference number FOI/439/1819 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Please be advised that Mid and East Antrim Borough Council may release the response to this information request into the public domain via our website at <https://www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/>.

If we publish our response to your request, your personal data will be removed to protect your privacy.