

FOI Reference Number: FOI/480/1819

Date: 21 February 2019

Request:

'I have noted that in their latest list of members the BPA (British Parking Association) lists yourselves:

[https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.britishparking.co.uk%2FBPA-](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.britishparking.co.uk%2FBPA-Members&data=02%7C01%7Cfoi%40midandeastantrim.gov.uk%7C6b2c344398f14214438408d682d2807f%7C54a722d029fa45c7b8d0b56f419033cd%7C0%7C0%7C636840237946125355&sdata=LPM9Eykcna1ZafySTetW8eQZRrhDEOQqVTM4BAojYhA%3D&reserved=0)

[Members&data=02%7C01%7Cfoi%40midandeastantrim.gov.uk%7C6b2c344398f14214438408d682d2807f%7C54a722d029fa45c7b8d0b56f419033cd%7C0%7C0%7C636840237946125355&sdata=LPM9Eykcna1ZafySTetW8eQZRrhDEOQqVTM4BAojYhA%3D&reserved=0](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.britishparking.co.uk%2FBPA-Members&data=02%7C01%7Cfoi%40midandeastantrim.gov.uk%7C6b2c344398f14214438408d682d2807f%7C54a722d029fa45c7b8d0b56f419033cd%7C0%7C0%7C636840237946125355&sdata=LPM9Eykcna1ZafySTetW8eQZRrhDEOQqVTM4BAojYhA%3D&reserved=0)

The BPA is not a highly regarded organisation by many motorists and seen as ineffective in regulating the private parking operators who make up the bulk of its membership; MPs in the House of Commons have also echoed these concerns.

Therefore, can you please provide the following information about your membership:

- The date you first become a member.*
- The reason for becoming the member.*
- How it benefits your residents by being a member.*
- Benefits received by being a member of the BPA.*
- The annual costs for being a member of the BPA.'*

Response:

Thank you for your information request which Mid and East Antrim Borough Council received on 25 January 2019.

Please find below, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's response to the information you requested in relation to the BPA.

Q1. The date you first become a member.

A1. Mid and East Antrim Council took membership in October 2018.

Q2. The reason for becoming the member.

A2. The Council does not hold this information. However, to assist you, I should advise that the Off Street Parking function transferred from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to local Councils in Northern Ireland in April 2015. Given the experience of the BPA and benefits that membership can offer, as detailed below, the Council decided to join the BPA.

Q3. How it benefits your residents by being a member.

A3. The Council does not hold this information. However, to assist you, membership of the BPA will allow access to shared parking service provision experiences and knowledge of other Councils that have longer term experience than Mid and East Antrim Council, which will assist the Council in developing parking within its function. Given the short term that the Council has been a member of the BPA the benefits to residents have not been measured or reported on.

Q4. Benefits received by being a member of the BPA.

A4. The Council does not hold this information. However, BMA membership benefits are available online at the BPA website. <https://www.britishparking.co.uk/Join-the-BPA/Member-Benefits>

Q5 - The annual costs for being a member of the BPA.

A5. Mid and East Antrim paid £177.60 + VAT as the BPA has accepted the Regional Off-Street Parking Group as one public sector band 5 member with the annual subscription being divided between members of that Group.

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/480/1819 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.midandeantrim.gov.uk/>.

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