



**Information Governance Team**

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04 October 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR)  
Request ID: FOI646711171**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Biodiversity Net Gain freedom of information request.

You have requested the following information:

**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)).**

37.

**2. The total number of planning applications that:**

**1) Claimed to be exempt from BNG: 4**

**2) Of this number, please provide the number that:**

**i. Claimed they were exempt from the BNG requirements under the householder exemption;**

Nil, however 47 householder applications have come through

**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);**

Three. These were confirmed by measuring the sites on GIS and comparing with the reports given.

**iii. Claimed they were exempt from the BNG requirements under the self-build and custom-build exemptions;**

One.

**iv. Claimed they were exempt from the BNG requirements under different criteria:**

Nil

**- For the answer to 2b(ii), 2b(iii) and 2b(iv) please set out**

**1) How many of these claims of exemption were accepted by the validation team:**

These claims were accepted by the ecology department (see further note below)

**2) 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**

Month	Small site	Standard site metric	
February	0	0	
March	0	0	
April	0	2	
May	0	0	
June	0	1	
July	1	1	
August	0	2	

Please note

The Planning department does not have a Validation Team. All applications are validated by the individual Development Management officers who then decide whether Ecology or other specialisms are consulted.

Where a BNG statement is submitted Ecology staff will independently assess the development and calculate a BNG value. Any discrepancies are then the subject of further discussion so the Ecology is satisfied that national local policy requirements are met.

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For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email [icocasework@ico.org.uk](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk).

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**