

FOI 6528600

I am writing to request some information on furniture provision through any form of Local Welfare Provision/Assistance or local crisis fund that you may provide. The questions are attached and pasted below this email.

1. What was the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme budget in your local authority for each of the financial years ' 2018/19; 2019/20; and 2020/21?

2018/19 - £250,000

2019/20 - £250,000

2020/21 - £500,000

2. How much was spent during 2018/19; 2019/20; and 2020/21? For 2020/21, how much has been spent so far?

Year	Amount spent
2018/19	£268,997.21
2019/20	£254,466.46
2020/21 (so far)	£155,781.14

3. What type of support is available, for example cash loans, grants, and/or furniture and white goods? Cash payments via paypoint or BACS, vouchers for furniture, small appliances, clothing, provision and installation of white goods

4. Do you provide furniture/white goods through your Local Welfare Assistance Scheme?
We provide both furniture and white goods

5. If you do provide support for furniture/white goods through your Local Welfare Assistance Scheme, do you supply the item or a grant/cash to purchase items? We provide Argos vouchers for the applicant to buy furniture, but provide the actual white goods (including installation)

6. If you provide furniture/white goods through your Local Welfare Assistance scheme, what proportion of your budget is spent on these items? This varies each year as per table below:

Year	Proportion spent on furniture	Proportion spent on white goods
2018/19	20.4%	18.8%
2019/20	25.9%	20.9%
2020/21 (so far)	12.5%	22.9%

7. Have you received any additional Government funding specifically for a Local Welfare Assistance Scheme in 2020? If yes, how much?

Government provided a £4.132m hardship fund for Council Tax Support recipients whereby Barnet in accordance with guidance applied £150.00 to all accounts in receipt of Council tax Support. The current spend is £3,184,430.94. From the 1st October 2020 the difference

between the £4.132m and total awarded will be used to supplement Barnet's Local Welfare Support Scheme and Council Tax Hardship fund.

8. What were the number of completed applications to the scheme in 2018/19; 2019/20; and 2020/21? How many were successful in 2018/19; 2019/20; and 2020/21?

Year	Completed applications	Successful applications
2018/19	1789	1453
2019/20	1844	1284
2020/21 (so far)	1312	996