

9 March 2026  
Our ref: 16311636

Thank you for your request received on 12 January 202.

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

## Response

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below

***Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the disclosure of the following information held by the council please.***

***1. How many Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) has the council issued for the littering of cigarette butts between 2020 and 2025, including a yearly breakdown?***

Please note no enforcement was undertaken in 2020/21 and only recommenced in 2021/22 when the new service was created using in house officers only.

[Appendix A 2022.23 CS end year progress report Final.pdf](#)

[Agenda for Safer Communities Partnership Board on Friday 12th July, 2024, 10.00 am](#) Agenda Item 9

[Agenda for Safer Communities Partnership Board on Friday 13th June, 2025, 10.00 am](#) Agenda Item 9

***2. How much money in total has the council received from FPNs regarding the littering of cigarette butts between 2020 and 2025, including a yearly breakdown?***

Please see below the total income for FPNs between 2020 to 2025

Amount	Financial Year
Not held	20/21
(12,925.00)	21/22
(74,125.00)	22/23
(56,092.00)	23/24
(95,657.77)	24/25

We do not hold income data broken down specifically by cigarette-related littering. However, the information available in the linked reports and on our open data portal

can be used to identify general littering offences, which will include cigarette littering. Cigarette litter is the most common type of littering offence, but it is not recorded as a separate category.

**3. How many FPNs have not been paid within the allocated time frame, and subsequently gone to court for the littering of cigarette butts between 2020 and 2025, including a yearly breakdown?**

The answer in Q1 refers and is relevant to 2020/21 and 2021/22 – each annual report cites the numbers of cases referred to legal services.

**4. How much money in total has the council spent on legal costs taking individuals to court for failing to pay FPNs for the littering of cigarette butts between 2020 and 2025, including a yearly breakdown?**

I believe our resources would not be able to find the intricate category matter - we do not hold data broken down specifically by cigarette-related littering.

**5. How much money in total has the council been paid as a result of court orders relating to FPNs for the littering of cigarette butts between 2020 and 2025, including a yearly breakdown?**

We do not hold data broken down specifically by cigarette-related littering. For clarity, identifying the specific type of litter involved in each offence would require officers to manually review the original handwritten carbon copies of all Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued. Many of these records may now be archived or destroyed in line with our retention schedule. Conducting such a review would require examining each notice individually, and this process would significantly exceed the 18-hour cost limit—likely requiring in the region of 50–60 hours of officer time

In addition, should the requester wish to refine their enquiry to cover littering offences as a whole for each year, we would be able to assist.

**6. What was the average amount the council was paid as a result of court orders relating to FPNs for the littering of cigarette butts per case between 2020 and 2025, including a yearly breakdown?**

Our records/reports note that the average fine for littering was £220 with costs awarded of £180 and a victim surcharge of £34.

**Further information**

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

**Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing**

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

**For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.**

### **Your rights**

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: [foi@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:foi@barnet.gov.uk). Or by post to Records & Information Management Service, Assurance Group, London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)). There is no charge for making an appeal.