

4 June 2019
Our ref: 5298028

Thank you for your request received on 8 May 2019, for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would be grateful for the following information:

- 1. How many Council Tax Support claimants were there in your authority on March 31st 2019?**
- 2. Of those claimants how many were:**
 - a. Working-age**
 - b. Receiving the maximum support available under your scheme**
- 3. How many court summons for non-payment of Council tax were issued in the financial year 2018/19?**
- 4. Of those summonsed how many received Council Tax Support?**
- 5. Of those summonsed and in receipt of Council Tax Support, how many were charged court costs and what was the total amount of those costs?**
- 6. How many Council Tax Support claimants had a liability order issued against them for non-payment of council tax in the financial year 2018/19?**
- 7. Of those Council Tax Support claimants with a liability order issued against them how many:**
 - a. Had deduction from benefits requested?**
 - b. Had deduction from earnings requested?**
 - c. Had enforcement agents engaged to recover the debt?**
- 8. How many self-employed claimants were entitled to Council Tax Support in 2018/19?**
- 9. Whether the Minimum Income Floor used in Universal Credit is being used to calculate the entitlement of self-employed claimants under your Council Tax Support scheme?**

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, I would be grateful for the following information:

- 1. How many Council Tax Support claimants were there in your authority on March 31st 2019?***

Answer: 26,260.

2. Of those claimants how many were:

a. Working-age

Answer: 18,423.

b. Receiving the maximum support available under your scheme

Answer: 5,759.

3. How many court summons for non-payment of Council tax were issued in the financial year 2018/19?

Answer: 23,160.

4. Of those summonsed how many received Council Tax Support?

Answer: 2,887.

5. Of those summonsed and in receipt of Council Tax Support, how many were charged court costs and what was the total amount of those costs?

Answer: 2,887 - £207,864.00.

Please note, this figure is the amount that has been charged and not the amount that has been collected.

6. How many Council Tax Support claimants had a liability order issued against them for non-payment of council tax in the financial year 2018/19?

Answer: 2,647.

7. Of those Council Tax Support claimants with a liability order issued against them how many:

a. Had deduction from benefits requested?

Answer: 219.

b. Had deduction from earnings requested?

Answer: 262.

c. Had enforcement agents engaged to recover the debt?

Answer: 1,281 cases at compliance stage only.

8. How many self-employed claimants were entitled to Council Tax Support in 2018/19?

Answer: 2,283 where the claimant or claimant and partner are self-employed, and an additional 405 cases where the partner is self-employed.

9. Whether the Minimum Income Floor used in Universal Credit is being used to calculate the entitlement of self-employed claimants under your Council Tax Support scheme?

Answer: Yes, minimum income floor used in the London Borough of Barnet's CTS scheme for self-employed claimants.

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

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. Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) The London Borough of Barnet, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London, N11 1NP

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). There is no charge for making an appeal.