

5 June 2019  
Our ref: 5328028

Thank you for your request received on 20 May 2019, for the following information:

**Freedom of Information Request Business Rates Account Credits and Write On's**

In accordance with Section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I wish to request access to information below.

Information Required Accrued NNDR National Non Domestic Rates credit balances & write on's (i.e. credits that you have been unable to trace recipients for and have therefore wrote into your accounts, leaving an outward appearance of a zero balance).

We request a breakdown of credit balances accrued remaining unclaimed since your earliest records, for the amounts owing to all `incorporated companies or public bodies (i.e. not individuals/private individuals) within any local authorities billing area, including:-

- The name of each business in respect of which Non Domestic Rate credit balances remain payable
- The value of overpayment in each case with remains unclaimed
- The years(s) in which the overpayment was made
- The hereditament address, and
- Account Number or billing hereditament reference

Where possible could you please send the information in electronic format, preferably excel to the email address below.

Please note that no personal data (as defined under the Data Protection Act 1988) is requested and any personal data contained within your files concerning Non Domestic Rates is exempt from this request (Section 40).

This request is made on the basis that such information is available under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and that, other than the exemption detailed above, no exemptions available under this Act apply to this request, i.e. Sections 21, 31, 41 & 44. Neither is it the case that the withholding of information could be argued to be in the public interest. We therefore look forward to receiving this information within the statutory limit of 20 working days.

We would also like to make it clear that we are not at this stage, applying under the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations (SI2005/1515).

**PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A TWOFOLD REQUEST.**

**I look forward to receiving your response and should have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me."**

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

**Response**

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds the information you requested.

However, we consider that the absolute exemption set out in Section 21 (Information accessible by other means) applies as the information requested is already reasonably accessible elsewhere.

Information regarding unclaimed credits is available on our Open Barnet data portal using the following link:

<https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/business-rates--nndr----accounts-in-credit>

If you do not have access to the internet at home, you may be able to use facilities at your local library.

With regards to your query on write on amounts, I can advise that as far as the Council are aware no write on's have taken place to give an unclaimed credit a zero balance.

**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 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](http://www.ico.org.uk)). There is no charge for making an appeal.