



Assurance Group
London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
23 July 2019
Our ref: 5443028

Thank you for your request received on 4 July 2019, for the following information:

Please could I have the figures spent on funding debt, housing and welfare benefits advice for each complete year since 2009-10.

If possible, I would like these figures separated across the three areas.

As relevant, I would also like them separated into what proportion of the money supported services provided internally and externally.

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

Response

I am writing to inform you that we have searched our records and although we hold some of the information requested, some is not held by London Borough of Barnet because figures can only be supplied from 2013 for Welfare Benefits Advice internal funding (due to the 6 year retention period) and from 2015 for Welfare Benefits Advice external funding as this is when it began.

We have provided answers to your request below showing where we do not hold the information requested.

Please could I have the figures spent on funding debt, housing and welfare benefits advice for each complete year since 2009-10.

If possible, I would like these figures separated across the three areas.

As relevant, I would also like them separated into what proportion of the money supported services provided internally and externally.

- Debt advice is provided free of charge by Debt Free London (Capitalise) Service

<https://www.toynbeehall.org.uk/29/04/2019/londons-debt-advice-partnership-relaunches-as-debt-free-london-to-more-londoners-out-of-debt/>

Welfare Benefits Advice: internal funding;

2013/14 £181,843.63
2014/15 £161,641.73
2015/16 £269,710.91
2016/17 £35,352.88
2017/18 £173,967.62
2018/19 £158,020.60

- Welfare Benefits Advice: external funding;

2015/16	£40,871
2016/17	£38,947
2017/18	£89,858
2018/19	£48,474

Barnet Homes also provide housing advice. Housing services (including homelessness, allocations, housing repairs and so forth) are provided by Barnet Homes who are an Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO) who manage the council's housing stock and associated services on the council's behalf. They are a public authority under Freedom of Information Act 2000 and so you may make a FOI request to them. Their contact details are:

Email: talk2us@barnethomes.org

Post: The Data Controller

Barnet Homes

Barnet House

1255 High Road

London N20 0EJ

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) 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). There is no charge for making an appeal.