



Assurance Group  
London Borough of Barnet,  
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,  
London NW9 4EW  
31 July 2019  
Our ref: 5455630

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

**I would like to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.**

**In each of the individual financial years: 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19.**

**1. Numerically how many mandatory reliefs were applied to individual rateable non-domestic properties by your local authority for the reason that the property was unoccupied during each financial year?**

**For the financial year 2018/19 only:**

**2. What was the financial value of mandatory relief applied to non-domestic properties by your local authority during the financial year?**

**For clarity in relation to question 1. When I refer to the number of mandatory reliefs applied to individual rateable non-domestic properties. I am for example seeking the following: If your local authority are contained 1000 non-domestic rateable properties in 2017/18. And 100 of these properties were at some point given mandatory relief because they were unoccupied, I am looking for the disclosure of information that informs me that during 2017/18, 100 non-domestic properties were given mandatory relief because of their unoccupied status.**

**I do not anticipate that my request for information will exceed Section 12 of the FOI Act, in terms of requiring the authority to spend more than 18 hours, or costing the authority in excess of £350, to gather the information that I have requested.**

**In line with the FOI Act I anticipate a response to my request by Tuesday 6th August.**

**If you have any questions or queries about my request please do not hesitate to contact me at the earliest opportunity.**

**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 I am unable to provide you with a differentiation between properties in receipt of the Mandatory Relief on an occupied and unoccupied basis, as Mandatory Rate Relief is not applicable to unoccupied properties.

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

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***For the financial year 2018/19 only:***

***2. What was the financial value of mandatory relief applied to non-domestic properties by your local authority during the financial year?***

***For clarity in relation to question 1. When I refer to the number of mandatory reliefs applied to individual rateable non-domestic properties. I am for example seeking the following: If your local authority are contained 1000 non-domestic rateable properties in 2017/18. And 100 of these properties were at some point given mandatory relief because they were unoccupied, I am looking for the disclosure of information that informs me that during 2017/18, 100 non-domestic properties were given mandatory relief because of their unoccupied status.***

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The total amount of the aforementioned relief applied to each financial year is as follows:□

- £11,131,961.91 across 491 accounts for the 2014/15 financial year

- £11,228,064.04 across 477 accounts for the 2015/16 financial year

- £11,855,331.72 across 520 accounts for the 2016/17 financial year
- £13,223,326.07 across 518 accounts for the 2017/18 financial year
- £13,621,376.59 across 485 accounts for the 2018/19 financial year

### **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) 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.