



Assurance Group
London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
8 August 2019
Our ref: 5530717

Thank you for your request received on 7 August 2019, for the following information:

I am requesting the following information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Does this Council offer a school uniform grant:

**o if so, who is eligible and how much is the grant worth?
o if not, when did the Council cease offering the grant?**

· How many grants were issued and what was the total amount spent on school uniform grants in the last year for which data is available?

· How many grants were issued and how much was spent on school uniform grants in (a) 2010 and (b) 2015?

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

Response

The council holds the information requested and it is attached/ the answers to your questions are below

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The council continues to offer assistance to eligible parents with the cost of buying school uniform from the Mayor's Benevolent Fund, a charitable trust that supports local residents in other ways, too, mainly to buy essential household equipment and furniture. Applicants must be in receipt of an income-related benefit and must have lived in the borough for at least twelve months. Help to buy uniform is restricted to children aged 11+ moving up to, or changing, secondary school. The standard award, increased in 2017, is £100.

In 2010/11, there were 38 awards amounting to £2,338.

In 2015/16, there were 23 awards amounting to £1,500

In 2017/18, there were 19 awards amounting to £1,215.

The reduction in the number of awards reflects the fact that some secondary schools over the period in question began helping parents to buy uniform from their pupil premium, thereby reducing the call on the council, a trend that appears to have been reversed this year, however, based on an increased number of applications received, including in relation to a new secondary school opening in September which offers no such help. These applications are currently under consideration.

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.