



Assurance Group
London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
28 August 2019
Our ref: 5541481

Thank you for your request received on 5 August 2019, for the following information:

Questions 1-3 of my request relates to the practice of local authorities paying private landlords monetary incentives to house clients who have approached the council as homeless or threatened with homelessness.

1.a. For each year (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 to date), on how many occasions did the local authority I pay a private landlord a monetary incentive to house a client who had approached the authority as homeless or threatened with homelessness?

1. b. If possible, please provide a list of names of the landlords who received these payments.

2. For each year (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 to date), how much money did the local authority pay to private landlords in incentives to house clients who had approached as homeless or threatened with homelessness?

3. Across the whole of 2018 only, what was the highest individual incentive the local authority paid to a private landlord to house a client who had approached as homeless or threatened with homelessness?

4. How much did the council spend (broken down by year, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 to date) on:

a.) discretionary housing payments

b.) if the council has a Bond and Rent guarantee scheme/ Tenancy Deposit scheme - how much was spent each year

5. For each year (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 to date) how much did the local authority pay to house people in temporary accommodation?

6. Please provide a.) the total number of FTE Housing support staff employed by the council, b.) the total number of live housing cases as at 1 August 2019 - (or other suitable chosen date)

If time is an issue, please provide figures from 2013 onwards only.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the Act. I will also expect you to release all

non-exempt material. I reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to charge excessive fees.

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 it is held by Barnet Homes.

We have provided answers to your request below showing where we do not hold the information requested. With the exception of Q4a all information will be held by Barnet Homes.

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

2 Bristol Avenue,

Colindale,

London NW9 4EW

Questions 1-3 of my request relates to the practice of local authorities paying private landlords monetary incentives to house clients who have approached the council as homeless or threatened with homelessness.

1.a. For each year (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 to date), on how many occasions did the local authority I pay a private landlord a monetary incentive to house a client who had approached the authority as homeless or threatened with homelessness?

1. b. If possible, please provide a list of names of the landlords who received these payments.

2. For each year (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 to date), how much money did the local authority pay to private landlords in incentives to house clients who had approached as homeless or threatened with homelessness?

3. Across the whole of 2018 only, what was the highest individual incentive the local authority paid to a private landlord to house a client who had approached as homeless or threatened with homelessness?

4. How much did the council spend (broken down by year, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 to date) on:

a.) discretionary housing payments

Year	Amount of DHP paid
2013/2014	£1,238,327.79
2014/2015	£1,145,781.85
2015/2016	£1,099,279.16
2016/2017	£1,363,010.24
2017/2018	£1,793,418.86
2018/2019	£1,548,603.76
2019 to 18/8/2019	£556,920.33

Please note that info has been supplied from 2013 as prior to 2013 Barnet Homes were processing DHP's.

b.) if the council has a Bond and Rent guarantee scheme/ Tenancy Deposit scheme - how much was spent each year

5. For each year (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 to date) how much did the local authority pay to house people in temporary accommodation?

6. Please provide a.) the total number of FTE Housing support staff employed by the council, b.) the total number of live housing cases as at 1 August 2019 - (or other suitable chosen date)

If time is an issue, please provide figures from 2013 onwards only.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the Act. I will also expect you to release all non-exempt material. I reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to charge excessive fees.

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.