

28 November 2019

Our ref: 5812732

Thank you for your request received on 14 November 2019, for the following information:

- 1) Can you please tell me if any of your councillors or Lord Mayor are eligible to claim money back for items of clothing?**
- 2) If yes, could you please tell me which ones and how much they are eligible for?**
- 3) Could you tell me how much was claimed by them for clothing allowance for 2017/18 and 2018/19?**
- 4) Finally could you give me a list of items purchased with the clothing allowance budget? In each case, please list the claims and the name of the councillor claiming it.**

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

- 1) Can you please tell me if any of your councillors or Lord Mayor are eligible to claim money back for items of clothing?**

Yes

- 2) If yes, could you please tell me which ones and how much they are eligible for?**

Mayor and Deputy Mayor. There is an annual Mayoral Allowance to cover expenses in total for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. This includes items of clothing to attend official functions appropriately dressed, receptions, hospitality, attending charity functions and charity donations. The allowance is managed by the Mayoral Services and Civic Events Manager

The following is taken from the London Borough Of Barnet Mayoral Standard operating Procedures

“The Mayor and Deputy Mayor can purchase clothing to be suitably dressed to carry out Mayoral functions. These items should be limited in number and at a reasonable cost. Submitting receipts for the purchase of clothing items considered to be highly priced will not be accepted and no reimbursement will be made.”

**3) Could you tell me how much was claimed by them for clothing allowance for 2017/18 and 2018/19?**

2017/2018 -Mayor Cllr Brian Salinger = £0

2017/2018 – Deputy Mayor Cllr Val Duschinsky = £372.15

2018/2019 – Mayor Cllr Reuben Thompstone = £420.25

Morning Suit – Tail Coat

Striped Trousers

Dinner Jacket

Tuxedo Trousers

Cummerbund

Bow Tie

Pleated front dress shirt

2018/2019 – Deputy Mayor Cllr Caroline Stock = £202.64

Day wear suitable for multiple Mayoral engagements:

Court shoes

Knit wear

Suit

Crop Jacket

Tunic

Cardigan

**4) Finally could you give me a list of items purchased with the clothing allowance budget? In each case, please list the claims and the name of the councillor claiming it.**

See response to question 3 above.

## **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.