

24 January 2020  
Our ref: 5913032

Thank you for your request received on 28 December 2019, for the following information:

**Please can you tell me the number of households within your council who as at or around 1st January 2020:-**

**1. Are receiving Council Tax Discount SMI Disregard.**

**And of them:-**

**2. How many have been backdated to the date the GP certified they were suffering from Severe Mental Impairment (SMI).**

Kind regards

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 due to restrictions in our reporting systems.

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

***Please can you tell me the number of households within your council who as at or around 1st January 2020:-***

***1. Are receiving Council Tax Discount SMI Disregard.***

541

***And of them:-***

***2. How many have been backdated to the date the GP certified they were suffering from Severe Mental Impairment (SMI).***

Not held.

Please note, we have recently agreed a protocol with Barnet's Citizens Advise. For cases where a customer does not have backdated entitlement to a qualifying benefit from the date the GP has confirmed entitlement. Citizens Advise will give their opinion as to whether the customer would have been entitled to the qualifying benefits at that time. Provided the Citizens Advice confirm the customer would have been entitled to a qualifying benefit then we will backdate the customers SMI disregard back to the date the GP has advised they became severely mentally impaired.

### **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.