



2 March 2020
Our ref: 6033188

Thank you for your request received on 3 February 2020, for the following information:

How many people have their housing benefit paid directly to their landlord? In last year?

What is the Council criteria for having the housing benefit element paid directly to a landlord? Eg private tenant

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

Response

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below.

How many people have their housing benefit paid directly to their landlord? In last year?

In the financial year 2018/19, 4889 people had their rent paid directly to their landlord.

What is the Council criteria for having the housing benefit element paid directly to a landlord? Eg private tenant

Housing Benefit can be paid directly to a landlord if there are issues which may endanger a claimant's tenancy such as not being able to manage money, debt problems, bankruptcy, addiction issues, conditions of tenancy, medical issues etc. Generally a letter will be sent to the claimant to clarify why they require their rent to be paid to their landlord and to supply relevant evidence to support this and if an appropriate issue is evidenced, then payment can be made to the landlord.

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.