



Assurance Group
London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
4 March 2020
Our ref: 6063888

Thank you for your request received on 10 February 2020, for the following information:

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information act, concerning vacant homes in your district.

1. Please could you tell me how many private and social homes have been vacant in your authority for the following numbers of financial years*:

- a. Less than one year
- b. One year
- c. Two years
- d. Three years
- e. Four years
- f. Five years
- g. Six years
- h. Seven years
- i. Eight years
- j. Nine years
- k. Ten years
- l. 11 - 19 years
- m. 20 or more years

***Please treat 'years' as financial years. If a home has been empty since at any point during the 2017/ 2018 financial year, I would expect this to be listed under 'two years'. If a home has been listed as empty within the current financial year, I would expect this to be listed as 'less than one year'.**

Please could you break this information down by:

Column a) The 'number of years'

Column b) 'Private' or 'social' home - a separate count for private, and social, if available

Column c) The number of vacant homes

2) Please could you tell me how many homes have been newly built in your authority each year for the last 10 financial years - with this information broken

down by:

Column a) The financial year

Column b) 'Private' or 'social' home - a separate count for private, and social, if available

Column c) The number of homes that were newly built that year

3) Please could you tell me how many newly built homes received applications for 'unoccupied and unfurnished property discounts' for each of the last 10 financial years?

Please could you break this information down by:

Column a) The financial year that the homes were built

Column b) 'Private' or 'social' homes - a separate count for private, and social, if available

Column c) The number of applications for 'unoccupied and unfurnished property discounts' of homes newly built that year

4) How much money has your council raised each financial year, for the last ten financial years, from charging extra council tax on homes that have been vacant for two or more years?

Please could you break this information down by:

Column a) The financial year

Column b) The amount of money raised in council tax from homes vacant for two or more years

Column c) The total amount of money raised in council tax that financial year

Please provide this response in Excel/ machine readable format.

Should this request exceed the time in which you are obliged to reply, please prioritise questions 2, 3, 4 and 1 in that order.

We have processed this request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Response

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

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- g. Six years**
- h. Seven years**
- i. Eight years**
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****Please treat 'years' as financial years. If a home has been empty since at any point during the 2017/ 2018 financial year, I would expect this to be listed under 'two years'. If a home has been listed as empty within the current financial year, I would expect this to be listed as 'less than one year'.***

Please could you break this information down by:

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Column c) The number of vacant homes

We consider that the absolute exemption set out in Section 21 (Information accessible by other means) applies to the information requested because the information requested is already reasonably accessible elsewhere.

If it relates to an empty residential property you should contact the Empty Homes Team who may be able to advise and assist, although they will not be able to disclose the actual details of the owners to you. If you are interested in making an offer on a property they we may be able to pass on your details to the owner. Please see;

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/housing/private-housing/landlords-barnet/emptyproperties>

Number of Years	Private or Social Home	Number of Vacant Properties
Less than one year	Not Held	1305
1 year	Not Held	394
2 year	Not Held	168
3 year	Not Held	89
4 year	Not Held	51
5 year	Not Held	29
6 year	Not Held	18
7 year	Not Held	13
8 year	Not Held	9
9 year	Not Held	9
10 year	Not Held	9
11 - 19 years	Not Held	57
20 or more years	Not Held	0

2) Please could you tell me how many homes have been newly built in your authority each year for the last 10 financial years - with this information broken

down by:

Column a) The financial year

Column b) 'Private' or 'social' home - a separate count for private, and social, if available

Column c) The number of homes that were newly built that year

Please see:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/implementing-london-plan/monitoring-london-plan>

3) Please could you tell me how many newly built homes received applications for 'unoccupied and unfurnished property discounts' for each of the last 10 financial years?

Please could you break this information down by:

Column a) The financial year that the homes were built

Column b) 'Private' or 'social' homes - a separate count for private, and social, if available

Column c) The number of applications for 'unoccupied and unfurnished property discounts' of homes newly built that year

4) How much money has your council raised each financial year, for the last ten financial years, from charging extra council tax on homes that have been vacant for two or more years?

Please could you break this information down by:

Column a) The financial year

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Column c) The total amount of money raised in council tax that financial year

Financial Year	Total Raised for Empty Homes Premium	Premium %	Total Council Tax Raised	Net Collectable after Discounts/exemptions
2014-15	£281,633.71	50%	£212,496,676.00	£184,804,869.03
2015-16	£272,759.67	50%	£214,874,243.00	£190,380,456.00
2016-17	£287,063.10	50%	£218,181,907.34	£194,315,155.36
2017-18	£231,370.70	50%	£227,520,469.06	£203,516,711.06
2018-19	£259,264.52	50%	£237,281,333.96	£213,045,451.89
2019-20	£541,080.97	100%	£250,435,633.32	£228,959,297.72

Please provide this response in Excel/ machine readable format.

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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.