

23 April 2020
Our ref: 6245788

Thank you for your request received on 14 April 2020, for the following information:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act ('the Act') to request the following information.

Official Government advice states that anyone with horses, livestock or other animals (except for cats and dogs) should call their local authority if they are too unwell to care for their animals due to Covid-19 and if they don't have anyone to help them. The official advice is contained at this webpage, which I last accessed on 13th April 2020: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-people-with-animals>. Please can you advise:

- 1. Has the local authority received any calls of the above nature?
a. If this information is held, please advise which species help has been requested for.***
- 2. What is the local authority's official response to such calls for help?***
- 3. What arrangements has the local authority made, or planned to make, for those animals that cannot be cared for by owners in the above circumstances?
a. Please describe the nature of any temporary arrangements that may be being made. Please break this down by species and/or animal type if appropriate.
b. Please describe the nature of any permanent arrangements that may be being made. Please break this down by species and/or animal type if appropriate.***
- 4. How much financial resource does the local authority have access to to help people with animals in the above circumstances?
a. Is this being provided by the local authority itself or by central Government?***

In the event that it is not possible to provide the information requested due cost limits per s12 of the Act, please advise how I can further refine my request to ensure it fits within the scope of the Act, per your s16 obligations.

I will look forward to receiving your response within 20 working days.

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

Response

1. **Has the local authority received any calls of the above nature?** No calls or request for assistance have been received by this department.

a. If this information is held, please advise which species help has been requested for. N/A

1. **What is the local authority's official response to such calls for help?** All calls will be treated on a case by case basis.

1. **What arrangements has the local authority made, or planned to make, for those animals that cannot be cared for by owners in the above circumstances?** We would work with partner organisations such as the RSPCA, Cat Rescue, Dogs Trust and other animal charities to ensure the best outcome for the animal concerned

a) Please describe the nature of any temporary arrangements that may be being made. Please break this down by species and/or animal type if appropriate. No specific arrangements at this time. See 3 above

b) Please describe the nature of any permanent arrangements that may be being made. Please break this down by species and/or animal type if appropriate. No specific arrangements at this time. See 3 above

1. **How much financial resource does the local authority have access to to help people with animals in the above circumstances?** No specific funds for this purpose at this time other than allocated budgets/Specified government Covid-19 related funding resources.

a. Is this being provided by the local authority itself or by central Government? As above in 4

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.