



London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
14 May 2020
Our ref: 6253588

Thank you for your request received on 15 April 2020, for the following information:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

Regarding the £10,000 COVID-19 Small Business Grant Fund for businesses with rate relief or rural rate relief:

1. What is the council's process for communicating with eligible businesses and handling applications?

(e.g automatic payments, businesses notified via letter and asked to apply via link, email notification and link etc.)

2. When were businesses first notified by the council that they may be eligible to apply?

3. What is the payment turnaround time from receipt of application?

4. Is there a staggered process for making payments, and what is the process? (e.g do you deal with first 1000 applications in a block and pay them by a certain date, before moving onto the next 1000 applications etc.)

5. How many businesses within your council jurisdiction are eligible for the grant?

6. How many applications have been received as of April 17 2020?

7. How many applications have been rejected as of April 17 2020?

8. How many businesses have been paid as of April 17 2020?

Please provide the information in the form of an email, with relevant attachments.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined I would be grateful for any further advice and assistance.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone and I will be very happy to clarify what I am asking for and discuss the request, my details are outlined below.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to your response.

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

1. What is the council's process for communicating with eligible businesses and handling applications? (e.g automatic payments, businesses notified via letter and asked to apply via link, email notification and link etc.)

An online portal, information about this is on the Council's Covid 19 page and ratepayers are notified via email to apply

2. When were businesses first notified by the council that they may be eligible to apply?

10th April 2020

3. What is the payment turnaround time from receipt of application?

If a grant payment verification is successful this should be in their bank within 7 working days. Any queries could be longer.

4. Is there a staggered process for making payments, and what is the process? (e.g do you deal with first 1000 applications in a block and pay them by a certain date, before moving onto the next 1000 applications etc.)

The Council processes applications as and when they come in and grant payments are issued on a Tuesday and Thursday each week

5. How many businesses within your council jurisdiction are eligible for the grant?

4335

6. How many applications have been received as of April 17 2020?

1,043

7. How many applications have been rejected as of April 17 2020?

59

8. How many businesses have been paid as of April 17 2020?

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.