

20 May 2020  
Our ref: 6260188

Thank you for your request received on 21 April 2020, for the following information:

**Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would be grateful for the following information:**

- 1. How many Council Tax Support claimants were there in your authority on March 31st 2020?**
- 2. Of those claimants how many were:**
  - a. Working-age**
  - b. Receiving the maximum support available under your scheme**
- 3. How many court summons for non-payment of Council tax were issued in the financial year 2019/20?**
- 4. Of those summonsed in 2019/20, how many received Council Tax Support?**
- 5. Of those summonsed and in receipt of Council Tax Support in 2019/20, how many were charged court costs and what was the total amount of those costs?**
- 6. How many Council Tax Support claimants had a liability order issued against them for non-payment of council tax in the financial year 2019/20?**
- 7. Of those Council Tax Support claimants with a liability order issued against them how many:**
  - a. Had deduction from benefits requested?**
  - b. Had deduction from earnings requested?**
  - c. Had enforcement agents engaged to recover the debt?**
- 8. How many self-employed claimants were entitled to Council Tax Support in 2019/20?**
- 9. Whether the Minimum Income Floor used in Universal Credit is being used to calculate the entitlement of self-employed claimants under your Council Tax Support scheme in 2019/20?**

Regards,

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

***Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would be grateful for the following information:***

- 1. How many Council Tax Support claimants were there in your authority on March 31st 2020?***

27,073.

**2. Of those claimants how many were:**

**a. Working-age**

19,510.

**b. Receiving the maximum support available under your scheme**

7,563

**3. How many court summons for non-payment of Council tax were issued in the financial year 2019/20?**

35,368

**4. Of those summonsed in 2019/20, how many received Council Tax Support?**

2,065.

**5. Of those summonsed and in receipt of Council Tax Support in 2019/20, how many were charged court costs and what was the total amount of those costs?**

1,829, Summons costs are £125 per case.

**6. How many Council Tax Support claimants had a liability order issued against them for non-payment of council tax in the financial year 2019/20?**

1,829.

**7. Of those Council Tax Support claimants with a liability order issued against them how many:**

**a. Had deduction from benefits requested?**

Information not available as deductions are often part of multiple summonsed years and also as deductions may not commence until another deductible debt has been paid.

**b. Had deduction from earnings requested?**

Information not available as deductions are often part of multiple summonsed years and also as deductions may not commence until another deductible debt has been paid.

**c. Had enforcement agents engaged to recover the debt?**

878 cases at compliance stage only

**8. How many self-employed claimants were entitled to Council Tax Support in 2019/20?**

1,895 CTS claims where the claimant was self-employed. (An additional 323 CTS claims where the partner was self-employed).

**9. Whether the Minimum Income Floor used in Universal Credit is being used to calculate the entitlement of self-employed claimants under your Council Tax Support scheme in 2019/20?**

The minimum income floor was used to calculate the entitlement of self-employed claimants under our CTS scheme in 2019/20

**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.