



Assurance Group  
London Borough of Barnet,  
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,  
London NW9 4EW  
9 June 2020  
Our ref: 6327753

Thank you for your request received on 11 May 2020, for the following information:

**I am researching the extent and impact of grant payments made to small businesses affected by the coronavirus outbreak.**

**Under the Freedom of Information Act, please provide:**

**\* The name and address of each business that has received funds from London Borough of Barnet under both the Small Business Grants Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Grants Fund**

**\* The amount paid to each of those businesses from those two funds**

**\* The date on which payments were made**

**Please get in touch if you would like to discuss**

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

## **Response**

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds the information you requested.

However, we believe that the exemptions detailed below apply to some/all the information you requested and so we are withholding that information. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

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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.

<https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/businessratesregister>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-grant-funding-local-authority-payments-to-small-and-medium-businesses>

We consider that the qualified exemption set out in Section 31 (Law enforcement) subsection applies to some of the information requested. Therefore, we have decided to withhold the information.

Section 31(1)(a) – prevention or detection of crime, can protect information on a public authority's systems which would make it more vulnerable to crime .

In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the interest in favour of disclosure.

### **Factors in favour of Disclosure**

- The council's commitment to transparency
- Legitimate interest in the use of public funds

### **Factors in Favour of Withholding**

- Risk that providing details of businesses that have not yet received their grants could potentially attracting fraudulent applications, it is not in the public interest to facilitate crime
- There is likely risk that disclosing Information around reference numbers supplied or business names would be likely to generate fraud claims for the grants
- The council already proactively publishes expenditure over £500 and redacted details of business grants at:

<https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/businessratesregister>

In all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

### **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.