

10 June 2020
Our ref: 6307320

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

I am researching the enforcement of housing regulation in the Private Rented Sector (PRS) by London boroughs. Local Authorities (such as London's boroughs) are named as the primary enforcement agency in much of legislation that regulates the PRS, for example the Tenant Fees Act 2019. I am researching how London's local authorities go about fulfilling this role as primary enforcers.

FOI Request

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act to request the following information about PRS enforcement in your local authority. I request the following items which I have not been able to find in the detail required on your website or other council publications.

Expenditure on Enforcement Activity

- 1. The total annual expenditure on regulation of the Private Rented Sector (PRS) by the council (including paying employees, expenses, transport, supplies, services and support services) for years 18-19 and 19-20.**
- 2. The staffing complement working on PRS regulation by number of full-time equivalent posts for years 18-19 and 19-20. For example, two people each working 18 hours a week equal one full-time post. NB: work on PRS enforcement may occur across several 'teams' as understood within your borough's organisational structure. Only those working on enforcement need to be counted.**
- 3. The total expenditure of the department in which PRS enforcement sits for years 18-19 and 19-20. (For example, Southwark's 'Housing Enforcement' team expenditure was £1,119,000 in 19-20, and sits within the Environment and Leisure' department, whose expenditure was £131,371,000 in 19-20.)**
- 4. The borough's total annual expenditure across all departments for years 18-19 and 19-20.**

If your council produces a Budget Book, this may contain some very similar information, for example overall budgets but not expenditure. Please note I am writing this FOI because I have not found all of the above information on your website.

Volume of Enforcement Activity

- 1. The total number of convictions, penalties and fines issued to landlords and letting agents that have been secured by your local authority in years 18-19 and 19-20, with a record of whether the penalties and fines were civil or criminal.**
- 2. The total pound (£) value of fines issued to landlords and letting agents by your local authority in years 18-19 and 19-20.**
- 3. The number of licenses issued for PRS properties in the borough in years 18-19 and 19-20, broken down by whether those licenses were part of mandatory, additional or selective schemes.**
- 4. The total current number of licensed private rented properties in the borough, broken down by mandatory, additional and selective schemes.**
- 5. The total pound (£) value of revenue raised via the issuing of mandatory, additional or selective licenses issued for PRS properties in your borough in years 18-19 and 19-20, and the current per-property cost of purchasing a license for each of the schemes active in your borough.**
- 6. The total number of properties against which planning enforcement action has been taken against a person (e.g. the owner or a tenant) letting the property as temporary sleeping accommodation on a short-term basis for more than the maximum 90 nights permitted without planning permission.**
- 7. Does your borough submit all successful enforcement activity against landlords and letting agents, including criminal convictions and civil penalties, to the Greater London Authority (GLA) 'Rogue Landlord and Agent Checker'?**

Please send replies to this email address:

xxx

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

Response

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds the information you requested. However, we consider that the following exceptions apply to some of the information requested.

We consider that Regulation 6(1)(b) applies to some of the information requested because the information requested is already publicly available and easily accessible. Links provided in the attached document.

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.