



London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
24 June 2020
Our ref: 6382954

Thank you for your request received on 23 June 2020, for the following information:

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.

This is a lengthy request; however, all but question 9 are for statistical data.

Please note this request has no questions 1-4 or 10-14.

Council tax

The council may have introduced waivers or deferrals of council tax bills for households during the coronavirus pandemic. My preference is for the council to exclude from questions 5 -8 those households whose council tax for the relevant months has been waived (i.e. cancelled) during the pandemic, but to include those households whose council tax for the relevant months has been deferred (i.e. delayed).

However, while this is my preference, it is not a requirement, and if it is not possible please just provide the data for the whole council tax cohort (or the CTS cohort for questions 7 and 8).

5. How many households (i.e. council tax accounts) are eligible to pay council tax in 2020/21?

6. How many households still owe council tax for April 2020 (i.e. they have not fully paid their council tax bill for April)?

7. How many working age households are in receipt of Council Tax Support?

8. How many working age households in receipt of Council Tax Support still owe council tax for April 2020 (i.e. they have not fully paid their council tax bill for April)?

9. Please outline any council tax deferral or waiver policy the council has introduced during the coronavirus pandemic (e.g. the council cancelling Ctax bills for April to June for Council Tax Support recipients). Please state whether the council tax bills for the beneficiaries of these policies are included or excluded from the data for questions 1-8

Discretionary Housing Payments

15. What is the council's Discretionary Housing Payment budget for 2020/21 (comprising both funds sourced from central government and any top-ups by the council)?

16. How much has the council awarded in Discretionary Housing Payments so far in 2020/21?

Homelessness assistance

17. Since 1st April 2020, how many people have approached the council for help with homelessness or the threat of homelessness under the Homelessness Reduction Act?

18. How many of the people who approached the council since 1st April 2020 for help with homelessness or the threat of homelessness under the Homelessness Reduction Act (i.e. the question 17 figure) have been assessed by the council to be 'threatened with homelessness'?

19. How many of the people who approached the council since 1st April 2020 for help with homelessness or the threat of homelessness under the Homelessness Reduction Act (i.e. the question 17 figure) have been assessed by the council to be legally homeless?

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

Response

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See attached spreadsheet

Homelessness assistance

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Information not held. Please make your request direct to Barnet Homes.

Housing services (including homelessness, allocations, housing repairs and so forth) are provided by Barnet Homes who are an Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO) who manage the council's housing stock and associated services on the council's behalf. They are a public authority under Freedom of Information Act 2000 and so you may make a FOI request to them. Their contact details are:

Email: talk2us@barnethomes.org

Post: The Data Controller

Barnet Homes

2 Bristol Avenue,

Colindale,

London NW9 4EW

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.