



London Borough of Barnet,  
2 Bristol Avenue,  
Colindale,  
London NW9 4EW  
2 July 2020  
Our ref: 6386552

Thank you for your request received on 24 June 2020, for the following information:

**Please could I request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:**

- 1. Does your local authority currently provide a school uniform grant?**
- 2. If no, did your local authority ever provide one and if so, when was it withdrawn?**
- 3. If yes- how many grants were issued and how much was spent on school uniform grants in (a) 2015/16 and (b) 2019/20?**
- 4. Does your local authority plan to provide a school uniform grant for the year 2020/21?**

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

***Please could I request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:***

- 1. Does your local authority currently provide a school uniform grant?***

Yes. there is a Mayor's Benevolent Fund under which school uniform grants can be made

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/benefits-and-grants/grants-and-funding/apply-mayors-benevolent-fund>

There is also a crisis fund, where school uniform need is identified and the request doesn't fall within the eligibility criteria for the Mayor's Benevolent Fund, see Refusal Notice below.

- 2. If no, did your local authority ever provide one and if so, when was it withdrawn?***

N/A

**3. If yes- how many grants were issued and how much was spent on school uniform grants in (a) 2015/16**

In 2015/16, there were 23 school uniform grants totalling £1,500.

**and (b) 2019/20?**

37 school uniform grants totalling £3,625.

**4. Does your local authority plan to provide a school uniform grant for the year 2020/21?**

Yes

**Refusal Notice**

We are refusing part of your request under section 12 because we estimate that compliance with your request will exceed the "appropriate limit" under section 12. The appropriate limit is £450 which is equivalent to 18 hours at £25 per hour. The per hour figure is set by Regulations rather than actual salary paid to any officers handling requests. The appropriate limit includes the time it will take the council to discover if it holds the information requested, to locate it, extract it and collate it as well as putting it into any particular format requested by the requester.

We have calculated that it will take approx 74 hours to comply with your request. Our calculation is as follows:

We would have to look at 2337 files and we estimate it will take 2 minutes per file which totals 74.50 hours .

**Advice and Assistance**

The crisis fund very rarely helps with school uniforms where a need is identified and the request doesn't fall within the eligibility criteria for the Mayor's Benevolent Fund, however we don't keep separate records for this, and we would have to look through all the applications received in order to find the cases, if any. It is unlikely that there is significant information held on school uniform grants under crisis loans and we are unable to suggest a way of narrowing the request.

**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.