

31 July 2020
Our ref: 6415652

Thank you for your request received on 6 July 2020, for the following information:

Re: Information request under the Freedom of information act 2000 to London Borough of Barnet.

I am writing to request information related to the collection of council tax debts via the use of Liability Orders and related enforcement action. Under the above-mentioned Act I would like you to provide me with the following information please:

For the last financial year ending April 5th 2020:

Question 1)

How many Court Summons did your organisation issue for debts relating to Council Tax payments?

Question 2)

How many Liability Orders did your organisation successfully obtain for debts relating to Council Tax payments?

Question 3)

How much total revenue did your organisation collect as a result of attachment to earnings and bailiff/sheriff enforcement action for debts relating to Council Tax payments resulting from Liability orders?

Question 4)

How much total revenue did your organisation lose as a result of non recoverable debts relating to Council Tax payments?

Question 5)

Due to the Covid-19 crisis, has your organisation suspended enforcement action for council tax debts? YES/NO

Question 6)

If YES to question 5, until what date is action currently suspended?

Please kindly supply me with this information electronically by reply to the email address at the top of this request. I look forward to hearing from you within 20 days of receipt of this letter with the above-requested information. I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this request to my email.

If this request is too wide or unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me as I understand that under the Act, you are required to advise and assist requesters. If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs where relevant.

If this request is refused or delayed by any qualifying exemption under the Act please kindly provide full details of your appropriate Public Interest Test carried out or the date at which a decision will be made by.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

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

Response

The council holds the information requested and it is attached/ the answers to your questions are below

I am writing to request information related to the collection of council tax debts via the use of Liability Orders and related enforcement action. Under the above-mentioned Act I would like you to provide me with the following information please:

For the last financial year ending April 5th 2020:

Question 1)

How many Court Summons did your organisation issue for debts relating to Council Tax payments?

23,545

Question 2)

How many Liability Orders did your organisation successfully obtain for debts relating to Council Tax payments?

18,963

Question 3)

How much total revenue did your organisation collect as a result of attachment to earnings and bailiff/sheriff enforcement action for debts relating to Council Tax payments resulting from Liability orders?

£2,629,167.00

Question 4)

How much total revenue did your organisation lose as a result of non recoverable debts relating to Council Tax payments?

There is no information available as recovery is often ongoing for individual and multiple tax years

Question 5)

Due to the Covid-19 crisis, has your organisation suspended enforcement action for council tax debts? YES/NO

Yes

Question 6)

If YES to question 5, until what date is action currently suspended?

Limited action is due to recommence in August, but no fixed date for full enforcement action has been set.

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.