

25 August 2020
Our ref: 6494736

Thank you for your request received on 27 July 2020, for the following information:

This request relates to the extension to Blue Badge scheme for people who have non-visible disabilities that came into force in England in August 2019.

1. Since the scheme came into effect, how many applications for a Blue Badge have you had relating to:

- a) adults with a non-visible disability***
- b) children under 18 with a non-visible disability***
- c) adults with autism****
- d) children under 18 with autism*****

2. Please break down each of the totals above by the number a) granted and b) refused.

3. If possible within the time limits of the FOIA, please further break down each of the totals 'granted' above by a) the total number granted through the 'without further assessment' route and b) the total number granted through the 'with further assessment' route.

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

Response

Please note that we do not hold the information requested in a ready format so a calculation of the time it would take to provide the information is provided to evidence the exemption applied which is that it would take longer than the free time allowed under FOIA.

Data on Blue Badge applications and badges is held within a system provided by the Department for Transport. The system can provide an extract of all badges held in the system in following data format:

Badge no

Badge status

Party code

Local authority short code

Local authority ref

App date
App channel code
Start date
Expiry date
Eligibility code
Deliver to code
Deliver option code
Cancel reason code
Replace reason code
Order date
Rejected reason
Rejected date time
Issued date time
Print request date time
Transferred from la code
Transferred from date time
Not for reassessment

Application data cannot be exported from the system, and the Council does not currently have a customer management system which is integrated with the Department for Transport system, which would allow us to export application data. Therefore we are unable to provide a breakdown of data as requested within the time limits of the FOIA.

The data we can provide is as follows.

Below is a breakdown of Blue Badge applications received to date under the non-visible disabilities criteria which came in on 30 August 2019.

	Total applications received
adults with a non- visible disability	290
children under 18 with a non-visible disability	142
TOTAL	423

The applications above cover the period from 30 August 2019 to 12 August 2020 and so not all of these applications have been processed and outcome determined.

225 Blue Badges have been issued to applicants under the same criteria since 30 August 2019.

Below is the estimate of work required to provide responses and total time.

For question 1, below is an estimate of the work required to provide a response:

- 2 minutes, per application, to locate the application details, and record the name and age of the applicant within a spreadsheet. 2 minutes x 423 application records = 846 minutes = **14.1 hours**
- 5 minutes, per application, to check application and supporting documents to determine whether a diagnosis of autism is included within the application. 5 minutes x 423 application records = 2115 minutes = **35.25 hours**

For question 2:

- 2 mins, per application, to search the Department for Transport system to check a badge has been issued for that applicant. 2 minutes x 423 application records = 846 minutes = **14.1 hours**

For question 3:

- 5 mins, per badge issued, to search internal records to determine whether the badge was issued following the further assessment route, or without further assessment. 5 minutes x 225 badge records = 1125 minutes = **18.75 hours**

30 minutes to type up response to FOI request.

Total time: 82 hours 42 minutes

We are therefore 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.

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.