

14 September 2020  
Our ref: 6505700

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

**I wish to request information from your authority about the use of discretionary housing payments (DHPs) in the year 2019/20. In particular, I am interested in information on the number of applications for Discretionary housing Payments (DHPs) received by your local authority, the number of applications for DHPs refused and the lengths of time that DHP awards are made for.**

**Please find the full request for information below. I request this information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I look forward to receiving your response within 20 working days.**

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

#### **Response**

I am writing to inform you that we have searched our records and although we hold some of the information requested, some is not held by London Borough of Barnet because the information requested is not recorded on our systems.

We have provided answers to your request below showing where we do not hold the information requested.

#### **A. All applicants**

##### ***DHP applications and awards***

***The total discretionary housing payment (DHP) budget available to your local authority for the 2019/20 year [please include, and specify, any additional top up funds granted].***

£1,717,419.00 – no additional top up funds

***The amount spent or committed on DHPs at the end of the year 2019/20:***

£1,716,144.00

***The number of applications for DHP received by your local authority in the year 2019/20:***

2389

***The number of applications refused:***

1107

##### ***Length of time of award***

***The average length of time a DHP was given for in 2019/20***

***The number of DHPs given for the different time periods listed;***

***a. Less than 4 weeks (including one-off payments):***

510

***b. 4 weeks to 12 weeks :***

154

***c. Between 12 weeks and 26 weeks:***

250

***d. Between 26 weeks and 52 weeks:***

83

***e. More than 52 weeks:***

2

***Repeat applicants (if recorded)***

***The number of applications received where the applicant had previously received a DHP from your authority:***

This information is not recorded on our systems

***The number of applications refused where the applicant had previously received a DHP from your authority:***

This information is not recorded on our systems

***B Applicants affected by low local housing allowance levels***

***The Local Authority monitoring returns on DHP asks local authorities to categorise DHP spend according to which welfare reforms the DHP was awarded. For the following questions, we are interested in DHP applications and awards made by people affected by Local Housing Allowance (LHA) reforms***

***DHP applications and awards***

***The number of applications received where the reason the applicant was in need of support was that they were impacted by low LHA levels:***

369

***The number of these applications refused:***

230

***The average length of time a DHP award was given for in 2019/20, for households affected by low LHA levels:***

12.4 weeks

***The number of awards made for households affected by low LHA levels for the following reasons;***

To help with on-going rental costs for disabled person in adapted accommodation;

2

***To help with on-going rental costs for a foster carer:***

1

***To help with on-going rental costs for any other reason;***

62

***The average length of time these DHPs were given for;***

***To help with on-going rental costs for disabled person in adapted accommodation:***

9 weeks

To help with on-going rental costs for a foster carer:

one off payment

**To help with on-going rental costs for any other reason:**

10.74 weeks

**The number of these DHPs given for the different time periods listed**

**a. Less than 4 weeks (including one-off payments):**

28

**b. 4 weeks to 12 weeks:**

34

**c. Between 12 weeks and 26 weeks;**

63

**d. Between 26 weeks and 52 weeks:**

14

**e. More than 52 weeks:**

none

**C Applicants affected by the household benefit cap**

**DHP applications and awards**

**The number of applications received where the reason the applicant was in need of support was that they were impacted by the household benefit cap:**

420

**The number of these applications refused:**

111

**The average length of time a DHP award was given for in 2019/20, for households affected by the benefit cap:**

14.84 weeks

**The number of awards made for households affected by the benefit cap for the following reasons**

**To help with on-going rental costs for disabled person in adapted accommodation**

none

**To help with on-going rental costs for a foster care**

1

**To help with on-going rental costs for any other reason:**

118

**The average length of time these DHPs were given for**

**To help with on-going rental costs for disabled person in adapted accommodation:**

none

**To help with on-going rental costs for a foster carer:**

21 weeks

**To help with on-going rental costs for any other reason:**

14.44 weeks

**The number of these DHPs given for the different time periods listed;**

**a. Less than 4 weeks (including one-off payments):**

51

**b. 4 weeks to 12 weeks:**

74

**c. Between 12 weeks and 26 weeks:**

130

**d. Between 26 weeks and 52 weeks:**

52

**e. More than 52 weeks:**

2

**D Discretionary Housing Payment's allocation policy** Your most recent Discretionary Housing Payments ☐ policy document, setting out the procedures in place for determining DHP awards

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-07/Barnet%20DHP%20Policy%202019.pdf>

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/benefits-and-grants/housing-benefit/apply-discretionary-housing-payment>

**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.