



London Borough of Barnet,  
2 Bristol Avenue,  
Colindale,  
London NW9 4EW  
14 September 2020  
Our ref: 6505500

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

**Please would you provide me with the following information:**

**For the financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21 to date:**

**1. How much money has the council spent in total on overseas trips for council staff?**

**2. How much money has the council spent in total on overseas trips for councillors (elected members)?**

**3. If time permits, I would be grateful for a breakdown of spending:**

- Cost of any flights / ferries / coaches / taxis etc
- Class of travel purchased (e.g. economy, business, first)
- Cost of hotel stays and names of hotels
- Cost of subsistence (e.g. restaurant bills, drinks expenses)
- Any other fees / or costs incurred
- Reason for trips

**My preferred format is to receive this information electronically. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me either by email or phone:**

**I would be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this request as soon as possible.**

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

## **Response**

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds the information you requested.

However, we consider that the following exemptions apply to some of the information requested. The remaining information is not withheld and is below

Refusal Notice.

We are refusing 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 at a minimum 166 hours to comply with your request.

Our calculation is as follows:

1000 (minimum) x 10 minutes each.

We are unable to search our databases of payments as we do not have specific pay codes for overseas travel. We would need to search through all travel claims made by staff. A search by all staff or all councillors would also take an excessive amount of time in addition to the 166 hours.

### **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.