

10 February 2021

Our ref: 6981372

Thank you for your request received on 28 January 2021, for the following information:

I would like to request the following data:

- a. how many Support Exempt Accommodation providers there are in your authority area, for each of the past 3 calendar years.**
- b. how many residents currently live in Support Exempt Accommodation, for each of the past 3 calendar years.**
- c. What is the total enhanced housing benefit paid to the Support Exempt Accommodation sector in each of the past 3 calendar years.**
- d. How many claims have been approved for enhanced housing benefit for those who live in Supported Enhanced Accommodation in each of the past 3 calendar years.**

Please provide the information in the form of an Excel spreadsheet.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined I would be grateful for any further advice and assistance.

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

Response

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 approx 40 hours to comply with your request. Our calculation is as follows:

This information is available from the Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) which is sent to the Department for Work and Pensions every month. SHBE only contains information on live claims and to fulfil your request we would have to analyse 36 SHBE reports for the three year period specified and compare them to extrapolate the requested information. In

addition, only the last twelve months SHBE's are held and the other twenty four would need to be extracted to be made available.

We estimate that it would take at least one hour to compare the 36 reports to answer your request and therefore at least 36 hours in total which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450. It would also take several hours to retrieve the earlier twenty four SHBE reports.

Advice and Assistance

You could reduce the time period of your request to allow us to supply you with information. You would also need to clarify what you mean by Enhanced Housing Benefit as per points c. and d. of your 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

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.