

29 March 2021
Our ref: 7080520

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

Dear London Borough of Barnet Council,

I would like to request the following data under the Freedom of Information Act.

1) As of 26th February 2021 (or the most recently available date), please could you tell me how many private and council homes have been vacant in your authority for the following numbers of financial years*:

- a. Less than one year (i.e. current financial year)**
- b. One year**
- c. Two years**
- d. Three years**
- e. Four years**
- f. Five years**
- g. Six years**
- h. Seven years**
- i. Eight years**
- j. Nine years**
- k. Ten years**
- l. 11 - 19 years**
- m. 20 or more years**

***Please treat 'years' as financial years. If a home has been listed as empty within the current financial year, I would expect this to be listed as 'less than one year'.**

Please could you break this information down by:

Column a) The 'number of years'

Column b) 'Private' or 'council' home - a separate count for private, and council, if available

Column c) The number of vacant homes

2) For the last five financial years (2016/2017 - 2020/2021), please can you tell me how many homes that had been vacant for two or more years were demolished in your authority?

Please could you break this information down by:

Column a) The financial year

Column b) The number of homes demolished

3) For the last five financial years (2016/2017 - 2020/2021), please can you tell me how many reports related to squatting in a council-owned vacant property you have received?

Please could you break this information down by:

Column a) The financial year

Column b) The number of reports related to squatting

4) For the last five financial years (2016/2017 - 2020/2021) how much money has your council raised from charging extra council tax on homes that have been vacant for two or more years?

Please could you break this information down by:

Column a) The year

Column b) The amount raised via council tax paid on vacant dwellings

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.

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

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Please could you break this information down by:

Column a) The 'number of years'

Column b) 'Private' or 'council' home - a separate count for private, and council, if available

Column c) The number of vacant homes

Please find response attached.

2) For the last five financial years (2016/2017 - 2020/2021), please can you tell me how many homes that had been vacant for two or more years were demolished in your authority?

Please could you break this information down by:

Column a) The financial year

Column b) The number of homes demolished

Not held. Barnet Council does record demolitions of private properties but not whether the property was vacant or not.

You can search a list of planning applications using the term 'demolition' to identify relevant applications in the following link;

<https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset?q=planning%20applications>

The planning register contains detailed information on demolitions approved in the last five years;

www.barnet.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning/find-and-comment-planning-applications

In terms of Council homes Barnet Council does not hold this information in terms of vacancy period.

Please contact Barnet Homes for this information.

Housing services (including homelessness, allocations, housing repairs and so forth) are provided by Barnet Homes who are an Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO) who manage the council's housing stock and associated services on the council's behalf. They are a public authority under Freedom of Information Act 2000 and so you may make a FOI request to them. Their contact details are:

Email: talk2us@barnethomes.org

Post: The Data Controller

Barnet Homes

2 Bristol Avenue,

Colindale,

London NW9 4EW

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Please could you break this information down by:

Column a) The financial year

Column b) The number of reports related to squatting

Not held by Barnet Council.

Please make your request directly to Barnet Homes.

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4) For the last five financial years (2016/2017 - 2020/2021) how much money has your council raised from charging extra council tax on homes that have been vacant for two or more years?

Please could you break this information down by:

Column a) The year

Column b) The amount raised via council tax paid on vacant dwellings

Please find response attached.

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.