

RE Highways Network Management,
Colindale Offices,
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW
26 April 2021
Our ref: 7164436

Thank you for your request received on 26 March 2021, for the following information:

- 1. In the last financial year (2019/20) (a) how much money was paid as compensation for property damage and personal injury caused by potholes (please include legal expenses), and (b) how many individual claims did this represent?**
- 2. Please tell me the value of the biggest claim settled in 2019/20, and the location of the pothole that caused the incident. Please provide a brief description of the incident (e.g. cyclist fell off bike going over pothole and broke their leg). If possible, please break up the cost of the claim between compensation paid and legal expenses.**
- 3. How many potholes did you repair in (a) 2018/19 and (b) 2019/20?**
- 4. What was your budget spend on repairing potholes in (a) 2018/19 and (b) 2019/20?**
- 5. Do you have a current estimate for the cost to your authority of repairing an average pothole? If so how much is this estimate?**
- 6. Please provide me with any figure you have for the number of potholes that require repair as of the date of this e-mail, or nearest convenient date.**
- 7. (a) What was your budget for the repair of potholes in the 2020/21 financial year? (b) Please provide me with a current estimate of how much over or under budget you expect to be at the end of the financial year in relation to your spend from your pothole repair budget for 2020/21?**

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

Response

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below.

1. In the last financial year (2019/20) (a) how much money was paid as compensation for property damage and personal injury caused by potholes (please include legal expenses), and (b) how many individual claims did this represent.

92 claims were made and £215,432 paid out in compensation.

2. Please tell me the value of the biggest claim settled in 2019/20, and the location of the pothole that caused the incident. Please provide a brief description of the incident (e.g. cyclist fell off bike going over pothole and broke their leg). If possible, please break up the cost of the claim between compensation paid and legal expenses.

The Largest claim details as below:

Whilst riding a bicycle , the claimant hit pothole causing him to fall and suffer injury.

Location: Wood Street (opp J/w Manor Road)

Costs: £17,074 damages, £725 NHS costs

3. How many potholes did you repair in (a) 2018/19 and (b) 2019/20?

2018/19: 5,600

2019/20: 5,416

4. What was your budget spend on repairing potholes in (a) 2018/19 and (b) 2019/20?

The Council pays a lump sum for all highways reactive maintenance activities, including pothole repairs, and this lump sum was £1,864,152.50 and £1,911,738.82 in the 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial years respectively.

5. Do you have a current estimate for the cost to your authority of repairing an average pothole? If so how much is this estimate?

No, as we pay a lump sum for all highways reactive maintenance activities.

6. Please provide me with any figure you have for the number of potholes that require repair as of the date of this e-mail, or nearest convenient date.

As of 26 March 2021, there are 32 potholes that have been instructed to the Council's contractor, awaiting repair.

**7. (a) What was your budget for the repair of potholes in the 2020/21 financial year?
(b) Please provide me with a current estimate of how much over or under budget you expect to be at the end of the financial year in relation to your spend from your pothole repair budget for 2020/21?**

The Council pays a lump sum for all highways reactive maintenance activities, including pothole repairs, and for the 2020/21 financial year this lump sum was £1,947,870.68.

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.