

4 May 2021
Our ref: 7273204

Thank you for your request received on 29 April 2021, for the following information:

Freedom of Information request to London Borough of Barnet Dear Sir/Madam,
I am writing to make a request for information to London Borough of Barnet under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please send me answers to the following questions:

- * What was your Disabled Facilities Grant budget for the period from 1st April 2019 to 31 March 2020?**
- * What proportion of the budget mentioned above was spent on DFGs during the period from 1st April 2019 to 31 March 2020?**
- * How many applications for DFGs did you receive in the period from 1st April 2019 to 31 March 2020?**
- * How many applications for DFGs did you receive from people living with motor neurone disease in the period from 1st April 2019 to 31 March 2020?**
- * What proportion of DFG applications received during the period from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 received a decision within the nationally recommended target timescale of 6 months?**
- * What proportion of approved DFG applications received during the period from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 received funding within the nationally recommended target timescale of 1 year?**
- * Do you currently have a fast -track application process in place to provide DFG funding more rapidly to applicants with urgent needs? If yes, what are the eligibility criteria to access this process?**
- * How many applications were made under the fast track process (if applicable) during the period from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020, and how many of these were approved?**
- * Are there any circumstances in which the DFG mandatory means test is waived and if so what are those circumstances? (e.g. for adaptations under a certain cost or of a certain type)**
- * How many applications for DFGs did you receive in the period from 1st April**

2020 to 31 March 2021?

*** What proportion of DFG applications completed during the period from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 received a decision within the nationally recommended target timescale of 6 months?**

*** What proportion of approved DFG applications completed during the period from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 received funding within the nationally recommended target timescale of 1 year?**

*** Do you currently provide a single point of contact for applicants to approach for information and guidance during the process of applying for and receiving DFG funding?**

*** Do you currently have an accessible housing register for your local authority area that is publicly available?**

If this request is too wide or unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me as I understand that under the Act, you are required to advise and assist requesters. If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs if necessary.

I understand that you are required to respond to my request within the 20 working days after you receive this letter. I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request.

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 exemption apply to some of the information requested.

We consider that the absolute exemption set out in Section 21 (Information accessible by other means) applies to some of the information requested because the information requested is already reasonably accessible elsewhere.

**** What was your Disabled Facilities Grant budget for the period from 1st April 2019 to 31 March 2020?***

£1.5m was allocated by Barnet from the BCF for DFGs

**** What proportion of the budget mentioned above was spent on DFGs during the period from 1st April 2019 to 31 March 2020?***

104.60%

**** How many applications for DFGs did you receive in the period from 1st April 2019 to 31 March 2020?***

194

**** How many applications for DFGs did you receive from people living with motor neurone disease in the period from 1st April 2019 to 31 March 2020?***

Data not held on specific conditons by grants team

**** What proportion of DFG applications received during the period from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 received a decision within the nationally recommended target timescale of 6 months?***

194

**** What proportion of approved DFG applications received during the period from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 received funding within the nationally recommended target timescale of 1 year?***

194

**** Do you currently have a fast -track application process in place to provide DFG funding more rapidly to applicants with urgent needs? If yes, what are the eligibility criteria to access this process?***

No formal process in place as routine DFGS are done very quickly anyway. However a following request by OT manager a case will be highlighted as "fasttracked"

**** How many applications were made under the fast track process (if applicable) during the period from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020, and how many of these were approved?***

Data not held

**** Are there any circumstances in which the DFG mandatory means test is waived and if so what are those circumstances? (e.g. for adaptations under a certain cost or of a certain type)***

No

**** How many applications for DFGs did you receive in the period from 1st April 2020 to 31 March 2021?***

222

**** What proportion of DFG applications completed during the period from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 received a decision within the nationally recommended target timescale of 6 months?***

222

**** What proportion of approved DFG applications completed during the period from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 received funding within the nationally recommended target timescale of 1 year?***

222

**** Do you currently provide a single point of contact for applicants to approach for information and guidance during the process of applying for and receiving DFG funding?***

Yes

**** Do you currently have an accessible housing register for your local authority area that is publicly available?***

This information is held by Barnet Homes

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

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.