



London Borough of Barnet,  
2 Bristol Avenue  
Colindale , NW9 4EW  
10 May 2021  
Our ref: 7245344

Thank you for your request received on 14 April 2021, for the following information:

**I would be grateful if you could provide the following information in respect of the level of Housing Benefit paid to providers of exempt accommodation in 2019-2020 for the following configurations of accommodation:**

**Type of Property: 1person/1bedroom**

**Lowest awarded eligible core rent:**

**Highest awarded eligible core rent:**

**\*Lowest awarded gross eligible rent:**

**\*Highest awarded gross eligible rent:**

**Type of Property: 1person/1bedroom: 1 person/2 bedroom i.e. with a sleep-in room**

**Lowest awarded eligible core rent:**

**Highest awarded eligible core rent:**

**\*Lowest awarded gross eligible rent:**

**\*Highest awarded gross eligible rent:**

**Type of Property: 2 person/2 bedroom**

**Lowest awarded eligible core rent:**

**Highest awarded eligible core rent:**

**\*Lowest awarded gross eligible rent:**

**\*Highest awarded gross eligible rent:**

**Type of Property: 2 person/3 bedroom i.e. with a sleep-in room**

**Lowest awarded eligible core rent:**

**Highest awarded eligible core rent:**

**\*Lowest awarded gross eligible rent:**

**\*Highest awarded gross eligible rent:**

**Type of Property: 3 person/3 bedroom**

**Lowest awarded eligible core rent:**

**Highest awarded eligible core rent:**

**\*Lowest awarded gross eligible rent:**

**\*Highest awarded gross eligible rent:**

**Type of Property: 3 person/4 bedroom i.e. with a sleep-in room**

**Lowest awarded eligible core rent:**

**Highest awarded eligible core rent:**

**\*Lowest awarded gross eligible rent:**  
**\*Highest awarded gross eligible rent:**

**Type of Property: 4 person/4 bedroom**  
**Lowest awarded eligible core rent:**  
**Highest awarded eligible core rent:**  
**\*Lowest awarded gross eligible rent:**  
**\*Highest awarded gross eligible rent:**

**Type of Property: 4 person/5 bedroom i.e. with a sleep-in room**  
**Lowest awarded eligible core rent:**  
**Highest awarded eligible core rent:**  
**\*Lowest awarded gross eligible rent:**  
**\*Highest awarded gross eligible rent:**

**\* Inclusive of core rent and eligible service charges**

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 it will take approximately 65 hours to comply with your request for a breakdown of the gross eligible rent, core eligible rent and number of rooms and occupiers.

Our reporting tools do not provide a breakdown between gross eligible rent and core eligible rent. Due to variances between exempt accommodation providers, the number of rooms are not reported on all cases. Therefore manual checking of the claims would be required to process your request.

In 2019/20 there were 196 exempt accommodation claims, and it is estimated it will take 20 minutes to check the claim data and record the breakdown:  $196 \times 20 / 60 = 65$  hours.

For your information, the highest weekly eligible rent paid is £653.38 and the lowest £58.74. The average eligible rent for exempt accommodation during 2019-20 was £279.77 per week.

## **Advice and Assistance**

We could supply you with a random selection of breakdowns of the weekly eligible rent, core rent charges, and rooms and occupiers.

## **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.