

8 June 2021
Our ref: 7370584

Thank you for your request received on 3 June 2021, for the following information:

- 1. Does the council have a formal policy in place for maternity, paternity, adoption and kinship care for all councillors? If yes, please provide a copy.**
- 2. If no, does the council have any informal arrangements in place by which it would make provisions for maternity, paternity, adoption and kinship care for all councillors?**
- 3. Does the council have a formal policy in place for maternity, paternity, adoption and kinship care for councillors with a Special Responsibility Allowance? If yes, please provide a copy.**
- 4. If no, does the council have any informal arrangements in place by which it would make provisions for maternity, paternity, adoption and kinship care for councillors with a Special Responsibility Allowance?**
- 5. Does the council have a formal standards committee?**
- 6. Does the council have a formal role to oversee member conduct and promote equality (e.g. chair of the standards committee, chief whip, etc.)?**
- 7. Does the council's Code of Conduct under Section 27(2) of the Localism Act 2011 make any reference to promoting equality or tackling sexism?**

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 exemptions apply to some of the information requested. The remaining information is not withheld and is below/attached.

1. Does the council have a formal policy in place for maternity, paternity, adoption and kinship care for all councillors? If yes, please provide a copy.

No data held.

2. If no, does the council have any informal arrangements in place by which it would make provisions for maternity, paternity, adoption and kinship care for all councillors?

No data held. However, if requests were made with support for care arrangements of any type, these would be considered and reasonable adjustments made to support the councillor.

3. Does the council have a formal policy in place for maternity, paternity, adoption and kinship care for councillors with a Special Responsibility Allowance? If yes, please provide a copy.

No data held. For information, the Council's Constitution Members Allowances Scheme section 4 covers Childcare and Dependent Carers' Allowance for Councillors. This sets out the allowance payable to any Councillor who incurs expenditure for the care of dependent relatives or children whilst undertaking the approved duties listed under section 4. For more information please refer to section 4 of the Members Allowances Scheme, via the link here:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s61031/26MembersAllowancesScheme.doc.pdf>

4. If no, does the council have any informal arrangements in place by which it would make provisions for maternity, paternity, adoption and kinship care for councillors with a Special Responsibility Allowance?

No data held. For information, the Council's Constitution Members Allowances Scheme section 4 covers Childcare and Dependent Carers' Allowance for Councillors. This sets out the allowance payable to any Councillor who incurs expenditure for the care of dependent relatives or children whilst undertaking the approved duties listed under section 4. For more information please refer to section 4 of the Members Allowances Scheme, via the link here:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s61031/26MembersAllowancesScheme.doc.pdf>

5. Does the council have a formal standards committee?

This information is publicly available:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=769>

6. Does the council have a formal role to oversee member conduct and promote equality (e.g. chair of the standards committee, chief whip, etc.)?

This information is publicly available. The Standards Committees functions can be found within Article 7 of the Council's constitution and the Code of Conduct for Members & General Guidance are set out under Article 20 of the Council's Constitution.

The Council's Constitution can be found at

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13581&path=0>

7. Does the council's Code of Conduct under Section 27(2) of the Localism Act 2011 make any reference to promoting equality or tackling sexism?

This information is publicly available. The General Obligations of Members (including Respect for Others) can be found within Article 20 of the Council's constitution. Section 3 of the Members' Code of Conduct sets out the general obligations of Members which includes Respect for others and promoting equality.

The Council's Constitution can be found at
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13581&path=0>

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.