

9 August 2021
Our ref: 7468532

Thank you for your request received on 9 July 2021, for the following information:

Dear Sir/Madam,

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would be grateful for the following information:

- 1. How many Council Tax Support claimants were there in your authority on (a) 31st March 2020 and (b) 31st March 2021?**
- 2. Of those claimants how many were:**
 - a. Working-age**
 - b. Receiving the maximum support available under your scheme**
- 3. How many court summons for non-payment of Council tax were issued in (a) 2019/20 and (b) 2020/21?**
- 4. Of those summonsed in (a) 2019/20 and (b) 2020/21, how many received Council Tax Support?**
- 5. Of those summonsed and in receipt of Council Tax Support, how many were charged court costs and what was the total amount of those costs?**
- 6. How many Council Tax Support claimants had a liability order issued against them for non-payment of council tax in (a) 2019/20 and (b) 2020/21?**
- 7. Of those Council Tax Support claimants with a liability order issued against them how many:**
 - a. Had deduction from benefits requested in (a) 2019/20 and (b) 2020/21?**
 - b. Had deduction from earnings requested in (a) 2019/20 and (b) 2020/21?**
 - c. Had enforcement agents engaged to recover the debt in (a) 2019/20 and (b) 2020/21?**
- 8. What was the Minimum Payment under your Borough's Council Tax Support scheme in (a) 2019/20 and (b) 2020/21?**
- 9. How many residents receiving council tax support were in arrears with their council tax as of 31st March 2020 and (b) 31st March 2021?**
- 10. What is the total amount of council tax payable from people receiving council tax support in (a) 2019/20 and (b) 2020/21?**
- 11. What is the total amount of council tax outstanding from people receiving council tax support in (a) 2019/20 and (b) 2020/21?**
- 12. How much did you spend on council tax support in (a) 2019/20 and (b) 2020/21?**
- 13. If you have a hardship fund specifically for CTS claimants in arrears:**

- a) what was the budget for the hardship fund in (a) 2019/20 and (b) 2020/21
b) how much of the hardship fund was spent in in (a) 2019/20 and (b) 2020/21
c) how many CTS claimants were made an award from this hardship fund in in (a) 2019/20 and (b) 2020/21?

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.

1. How many Council Tax Support claimants were there in your authority on

- (a) *31st March 2020* - 26,380
(b) *31st March 2021* - 28,397

2. Of those claimants how many were:

a. Working-age

- 31st March 2020* - 18,720
31st March 2021 - 21,047

b. Receiving the maximum support available under your scheme

- 31st March 2020* - 9,682
31st March 2021 - 12,261

3. How many court summons for non-payment of Council tax were issued in

- (a) *2019/20* - 23,545
(b) *2020/21* - 10,334

4. Of those summonsed in (a) 2019/20 and (b) 2020/21, how many received Council Tax Support?

- (a) *2019/20* - 2,065
(b) *2020/21* - Not held due to effects of Covid-19

5. Of those summonsed and in receipt of Council Tax Support, how many were charged court costs and what was the total amount of those costs?

Not held as our systems do not differentiate between court costs issued to those in receipt of Council Tax Support and those not in receipt of Council Tax Support. The full amount of costs added to each case is £125, although in some cases we would have waived the costs especially where there is a low balance of Council Tax.

6. How many Council Tax Support claimants had a liability order issued against them for non-payment of council tax in

- (a) *2019/20* - 1,870

(b) 2020/21 - Not held due to effects of Covid-19

7. Of those Council Tax Support claimants with a liability order issued against them how many:

a. Had deduction from benefits requested in (a) 2019/20 and (b) 2020/21?

b. Had deduction from earnings requested in (a) 2019/20 and (b) 2020/21?

c. Had enforcement agents engaged to recover the debt in (a) 2019/20 and (b) 2020/21?

Not held as these statistics are not recorded by our systems.

8. What was the Minimum Payment under your Borough's Council Tax Support scheme in (a) 2019/20 and (b) 2020/21?

Income Band	Discount off Council Tax liability	Earnings threshold (monthly)
1	72.00%	No earnings
2	52.00%	<£500
3	44.00%	£500.01-£800
4	36.00%	£800.01-£1100
5	28.00%	£1100.01-£1400
6	20.00%	£1400.01-£1700
7	12.00%	£1700.01-£2000

9. How many residents receiving council tax support were in arrears with their council tax as of 31st March 2020 and (b) 31st March 2021?

Not held, due to the nature of recovery action a claimant could have been in arrears at the beginning of the year but by the end they could be completely up to date. Due to restrictions in our reporting system we are unable to provide these numbers.

10. What is the total amount of council tax payable from people receiving council tax support in

(a) 2019/20 - £12,524,058, as at 01.04.2019

(b) 2020/21 - £13,593,558, as at 01.04.2020

11. What is the total amount of council tax outstanding from people receiving council tax support in

Not held, due to restrictions in our reporting system we are unable to provide the balance outstanding for Council Tax Support only. The figures below are the total balances outstanding for all Council tax payers.

As at 31.07.2021:

(a) 2019/20 - £4.6M

(b) 2020/21 - £9M

12. How much did you spend on council tax support in

(a) 2019/20 - £21,498,696 as at 31.03.2020

(b) 2020/21 - £27,593,335 as at 31.03.2021

13. If you have a hardship fund specifically for CTS claimants in arrears:

a) what was the budget for the hardship fund in (a) 2019/20 and (b) 2020/21

There is no budget set aside for discretionary discounts of Council Tax under Section 13(A) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. However where a need is identified, provision has been made for funding to be available from the reserve to meet demand.

b) how much of the hardship fund was spent in in

(a) 2019/20 - £104,333.37

(b) 2020/21 - £336,897.54

c) how many CTS claimants were made an award from this hardship fund in in

(a) 2019/20 - 189

(b) 2020/21 - 454

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.

