

31 August 2021  
Our ref: 7550672

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

**1. Please could you complete the first tab of the attached spreadsheet with information relating to the number of children eligible for benefits-related free school meals in your local authority area at the census dates indicated.**

**2. In regards to the government's COVID Winter Grant Scheme (and the subsequent COVID Local Support Grant):**

**a. Please provide a statement summarising (a) how much funding was received by your local authority through these schemes, and (b) how (if at all) you used this funding to provide food support to children eligible for benefits-related free school meals over each of the following time periods:**

- \* Christmas school holidays (21/12/20 - 1/01/21)
- \* February school half-term (15/02/21 - 19/02/21)
- \* Easter school holidays (29/03/21 - 9/04/21)
- \* Summer school half-term (31/05-21 - 4/06/21)
- \* Duration of the scheme

**b. Please complete the second tab of the attached spreadsheet answering the following questions (for each of the time periods listed):**

- \* How many children on benefit-related free school meals were given any support through the COVID Winter Grant Scheme/COVID Local Support Grant?
- \* How much of the COVID Winter Grant Scheme/COVID Local Support Grant funding was spent to provide food support to families with children?
- \* How many meals (or cash/voucher equivalent) were provided through the COVID Winter Grant Scheme/COVID Local Support Grant funding in total?
- \* How many children eligible for benefits-related free school meals were provided meals through the COVID Winter Grant Scheme/COVID Local Support Grant?

**3. In regards to the Government's Holiday Activity and Food Programme:**

**a. Please provide a statement summarising (a) how much funding was received by your local authority through this scheme for the 2020/2021 academic year, and (b) how (if at all) you used the Holiday Activity and Food Programme funding to provide food support to children eligible for benefits-related free school meals over each of the following time periods:**

- \* Christmas school holidays (21/12/20 - 1/01/21)

- \* Easter school holidays (29/03/21 - 9/04/21)
- \* Summer school holidays (22/07/21 - 31/08/21)
- \* Academic year 2020-21

b. Please complete the third tab of the attached spreadsheet answering the following questions (for each of the time periods listed):

- \* How much of the funding received through the Holiday Activity and Food Programme was spent to provide food to children?
- \* How many meals (or cash/voucher equivalent) were provided through the Holiday Activity and Food Programme funding?
- \* How many children eligible for benefits-related free school meals were provided with meals through the Holiday Activity and Food Programme?
- \* How many children eligible for benefits-related free school meals but unable to partake in the offered activities were provided with meals through the Holiday Activity Food Programme?
- \* How many days of food and activity were provided for children eligible for benefit-related free school meals?

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

## Response

The council holds the information requested and it is attached.

***1. Please could you complete the first tab of the attached spreadsheet with information relating to the number of children eligible for benefits-related free school meals in your local authority area at the census dates indicated.***

Please see our response on the attached document

***2. In regards to the government's COVID Winter Grant Scheme (and the subsequent COVID Local Support Grant):***

***a. Please provide a statement summarising (a) how much funding was received by your local authority through these schemes, and (b) how (if at all) you used this funding to provide food support to children eligible for benefits-related free school meals over each of the following time periods:***

- \* ***Christmas school holidays (21/12/20 - 1/01/21)***
- \* ***February school half-term (15/02/21 - 19/02/21)***
- \* ***Easter school holidays (29/03/21 - 9/04/21)***
- \* ***Summer school half-term (31/05-21 - 4/06/21)***
- \* ***Duration of the scheme***

(a) Please see the spreadsheet for the funding

(b) The criteria set by the DWP for the Covid support fund is for families financially impacted by Covid, it was not a replication of Free School Meals. In Barnet we worked with schools and settings to identify children who would meet the criteria as they know their children and families best. Whilst families identified may have been in receipt of FSMs we were not required to gather this data, the figures supplied are the number of children who received support from the grant which was required to be reported to the DWP

***b. Please complete the second tab of the attached spreadsheet answering the following questions (for each of the time periods listed):***

- \* How many children on benefit-related free school meals were given any support through the COVID Winter Grant Scheme/COVID Local Support Grant?***
- \* How much of the COVID Winter Grant Scheme/COVID Local Support Grant funding was spent to provide food support to families with children?***
- \* How many meals (or cash/voucher equivalent) were provided through the COVID Winter Grant Scheme/COVID Local Support Grant funding in total?***
- \* How many children eligible for benefits-related free school meals were provided meals through the COVID Winter Grant Scheme/COVID Local Support Grant?***

Please see our response on the attached document

***3. In regards to the Government's Holiday Activity and Food Programme:***

***a. Please provide a statement summarising (a) how much funding was received by your local authority through this scheme for the 2020/2021 academic year, and (b) how (if at all) you used the Holiday Activity and Food Programme funding to provide food support to children eligible for benefits-related free school meals over each of the following time periods:***

- \* Christmas school holidays (21/12/20 - 1/01/21)***
- \* Easter school holidays (29/03/21 - 9/04/21)***
- \* Summer school holidays (22/07/21 - 31/08/21)***
- \* Academic year 2020-21***

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***b. Please complete the third tab of the attached spreadsheet answering the following questions (for each of the time periods listed):***

- \* How much of the funding received through the Holiday Activity and Food Programme was spent to provide food to children?***
- \* How many meals (or cash/voucher equivalent) were provided through the Holiday Activity and Food Programme funding?***
- \* How many children eligible for benefits-related free school meals were provided with meals through the Holiday Activity and Food Programme?***
- \* How many children eligible for benefits-related free school meals but unable to partake in the offered activities were provided with meals through the Holiday Activity Food Programme?***
- \* How many days of food and activity were provided for children eligible for benefit-related free school meals?***

Please see our response on the attached document

## **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.