

London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
5 October 2021
Our ref: 7640668

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

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you as I am looking for the aggregate number of premises that have a business rate account AND the number of these that are currently vacant. So to be clear I need 2 aggregate numbers.

My request is not sensitive at all since it is a single aggregated number, not a listing of individual properties. I hope you can give a positive response to my request in the next few days.

Thanks a lot in advance,

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 believe that the exemptions detailed below apply to some/all of this information and this is withheld. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you as I am looking for the aggregate number of premises that have a business rate account AND the number of these that are currently vacant. So to be clear I need 2 aggregate numbers.

My request is not sensitive at all since it is a single aggregated number, not a listing of individual properties. I hope you can give a positive response to my request in the next few days.

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds the information you requested.

S21 - Material already published

Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you by other means.

The information relevant to your request is published online at the following link:

This shows occupied properties -

<https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/businessratesregister> -

This shows unoccupied properties -

<https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/empty-commercial-properties>

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 Records & Information Management Service, Assurance Group, 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.

