

19 October 2021
Our ref: 7670856

Thank you for your request received on 23 September 2021, for the following information:

To whom it may concern,

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information:

How many students who were exempt from paying council tax in Barnet borough, paid council tax in 2018-2021, (please give the figures in an annual breakdown)?

How many students who were exempt from paying council tax in Barnet borough did not claim a refund (please give the figures in an annual breakdown)?

How many students who were exempt from paying council tax in Barnet borough never received a refund 2018-2021 (please give the figures in an annual breakdown)?

What percentage of students who are living in Barnet borough does this constitute 2018-2021 (please give the figures in an annual breakdown)?

How many students were living in Barnet borough 2018-2021 (please give the figures in an annual breakdown)?

How much money did students who are exempt from paying council tax in Barnet borough, pay in council tax in the years 2018-2021 (please give the figures in an annual breakdown)?

What happens to the council tax money that students pay in Barnet borough, when they are exempt (please give the figures in an annual breakdown)?

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under your Section 16 obligations, as to how I can refine my request to be included within the scope of the Act.

If you can identify ways that my request could be refined, please provide further advice and assistance to indicate this.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone.

Under the stipulations of the act, I look forward to receiving your response within 20 working days.

This information should be made available to me in electronic form if possible.

Kind regards,

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

Response

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below and attached.

Q1. How many students who were exempt from paying council tax in Barnet borough, paid council tax in 2018-2021, (please give the figures in an annual breakdown)?

Students who are exempt would not be liable to pay Council Tax.

Q2. How many students who were exempt from paying council tax in Barnet borough did not claim a refund (please give the figures in an annual breakdown)?

Students who are exempt would not be liable to pay Council Tax.

Q3. How many students who were exempt from paying council tax in Barnet borough never received a refund 2018-2021 (please give the figures in an annual breakdown)?

Students who are exempt would not be liable to pay Council Tax.

Q4. What percentage of students who are living in Barnet borough does this constitute 2018-2021 (please give the figures in an annual breakdown)?

Please note, that our database only holds the number of properties (see attached) and not the number of people living within the borough. Therefore I am unable to give an accurate percentage of students living within the borough.

Q5. How many students were living in Barnet borough 2018-2021 (please give the figures in an annual breakdown)?

Please note, this is the number of exemptions awarded (see attached) and could include multiple students who are exempt living at a property.

Q6. How much money did students who are exempt from paying council tax in Barnet borough, pay in council tax in the years 2018-2021 (please give the figures in an annual breakdown)?

Students who are exempt would not be liable to pay Council Tax.

Q7. What happens to the council tax money that students pay in Barnet

borough, when they are exempt (please give the figures in an annual breakdown)?

The Council Tax departments policy is to refund any overpayment via BACS, providing bank details are held on the Council Tax account. If there are no bank details held a credit demand notice would be issued to the property address advising of the credit. Once a response is received a refund is issued to the bank details provided.

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.