

London Borough of Barnet,  
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,  
London NW9 4EW  
8 November 2021  
Our ref: 7777752

Thank you for your request received on 1 November 2021, for the following information:

**Please could you provide me with answers to the following questions regarding recent influx of refugees from Afghanistan and the Government's pledge to rehome 5,000 refugees by the end of the year;**

- 1. How many refugees (or refugee families) from Afghanistan have the council housed since the beginning of August?**
- 2. How much money has been spent - or allocated - by the council to provide housing and/or services to refugees in 2021?**
- 3. How much money was spent - or allocated - by the council to provide housing and/or services to refugees in 2020?**
- 4. Has the council received addition funding from the Government to provide housing and/or services to refugees since the beginning of August? If yes, how much?**
- 5. Has the council applied to access the Mayor of London's 'Right to Buy Back' fund? If yes, have you received funding and/or purchased homes for refugees using this scheme**

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

***Please could you provide me with answers to the following questions regarding recent influx of refugees from Afghanistan and the Government's pledge to rehome 5,000 refugees by the end of the year;***

- 1. How many refugees (or refugee families) from Afghanistan have the council housed since the beginning of August?***

We have already supported the resettlement of two Afghan families under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP). We have pledged to take 3 more families.

- 2. How much money has been spent - or allocated - by the council to provide housing and/or services to refugees in 2021?***

As per the Home Office regulation they provided the funding for the 8 weeks of integration support for the families that have settled in Barnet.

**3. How much money was spent - or allocated - by the council to provide housing and/or services to refugees in 2020?**

There was no allocation of money in 2020 to support Afghan refugees

**4. Has the council received addition funding from the Government to provide housing and/or services to refugees since the beginning of August? If yes, how much?**

Under Home Office regulation the families that arrived earlier in the year were eligible for 8 weeks of integration support. The remaining three families yet to arrive will be supported more extensively for a period of 3 years, as the whole unit will be new to life in the UK. This will extend to supporting adults with employment opportunities, signposting to mental health services where necessary, and offering translation during medical and school appointments.

**5. Has the council applied to access the Mayor of London's 'Right to Buy Back' fund? If yes, have you received funding and/or purchased homes for refugees using this scheme**

No

**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 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](http://www.ico.org.uk)). There is no charge for making an appeal.