

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London, NW9 4EW
19 May 2022
Our ref: 8262829

Thank you for your request received on 10 May 2022, for the following information:

RE: Request under the Freedom of Information Act (2000)

Dear Information Team

This is an information request relating to overseas travel by councillors or council officials.

Please include the information for each of the following financial years: 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22

*** The total annual spend by the council on overseas travel**

*** A breakdown of expenditure on overseas travel. Please include:**

o Destination

o Length of trip

o Number of officials involved

o The name and address of the hotel(s) booked

o The flights booked, including which class

o Purpose of trip

o Expenses for food, drink, taxis (please, where possible, provide receipts)

Please make clear whether a trip was fully funded by the council, only part funded, or was fully funded by an external body. If funded by an external body, please make clear which body.

If the council publishes this information online, then I would be happy to be provided a link instead of a detailed response. For example, Birmingham Council publishes their information online.

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 the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone and I will be very happy to clarify what I am asking for.

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.

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**** A breakdown of expenditure on overseas travel. Please include:***

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o Length of trip

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No overseas travel undertaken by council staff during the periods requested.

With regard to councillors and other officials;

8th to 10th April 2019

3 Officials (Mayor, Mayoress and one officer)

Germany - Twin Town of Kreis Siegen-Wittgenstein

Barnet Council paid for Economy flights only.

£596.34

Hotel and hospitality funded by Kreis Siegen-Wittgenstein.

Twin Town visit on 70th anniversary of the original twinning. Signed a reaffirmation of twinning and continued to further the relationship with educational and cultural ideas, views and exchange.

10th Oct to 14th Oct 2019

2 Officials (Mayor and Mayor's Consort)

Cyprus - Twin Town Morphou

Barnet Council paid for Economy flights only.

£679.00

Hotel and hospitality funded by Morphou Municipality.

Annual Rally of support for Greek Cypriots to return to their homes in Morphou from exile.

3rd Nov 2019 to 5th Nov 2019

2 officials (Mayor and Mayor's Consort)

Poland - Auschwitz

Educational trip in preparation for the Barnet Holocaust Memorial Commemoration Event

Economy Flights only paid for by Barnet Council

£393.23

Other costs personally funded by individuals.

10th March to 24th March 2020 (was cancelled due to Covid)

4 Officials (Mayor, Mayor's Consort, Leader, Cllr - Chair of Friends of Ramat Gan)

Israel - Twin Town of Ramat Gan

Cultural and educational exchange

Economy Flights paid for by Barnet Council.

£1948.85

(Flight carrier (BA) refused refund as trip was cancelled due to Covid 19)

2nd October to 11 October 2021

2 Officials (Mayor and Mayor's Escort)

Cyprus - Twin Town of Morphou

Barnet Council paid for Economy flights only.

£778.38

Hotel and hospitality funded by Morphou Municipality.

Annual Rally of support for Greek Cypriots to return to their homes in Morphou from exile.

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.