

London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
9 June 2022
Our ref: 8295028

Thank you for your request received on 23 May 2022, for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information act 2000 I would like to know what budget/policies your council have put in place to combat digital poverty/digital exclusion (such as lack of access to devices/internet or digital skills training) over the last 3 years.

Please break down by financial year, and include the following:

- * Amount of money/budget spent (£) on devices, digital skills training or anything else across each of the last three financial years (or as far back as you can provide)**
- * Amount of devices donated to families, schools, or charities in need**
Please also include a breakdown of each device type (i.e. laptop, mobile phone, tablet, etc.) and associated costs
- * A list of any specific policies, activities or consultations introduced to tackle digital poverty**

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.

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

Response

The council holds the information requested and it is attached/ the answers to your questions are below

Under the Freedom of Information act 2000 I would like to know what budget/policies your council have put in place to combat digital poverty/digital exclusion (such as lack of access to devices/internet or digital skills training) over the last 3 years.

Please break down by financial year, and include the following:

- * Amount of money/budget spent (£) on devices, digital skills training or anything else across each of the last three financial years (or as far back as you can provide)***

We do not currently track digital inclusion as a central budget.

**** Amount of devices donated to families, schools, or charities in need
Please also include a breakdown of each device type (i.e. laptop, mobile phone, tablet, etc.) and associated costs***

400 plus. Laptops and working in collaboration with our IT Provider no cost to the authority

**** A list of any specific policies, activities or consultations introduced to tackle digital poverty***

Digital Strategy and Barnet Plan.

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/digital-barnet>

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/media/12534>

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-11/Barnet%20Joint%20Health%20and%20Wellbeing%20Strategy%202021%20to%202025%20-%20full%20document.pdf>

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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.