

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London, NW9 4EW
27 June 2022
Our ref: 8298360

Thank you for your request received on 25 May 2022, for the following information:

Dear Sir/Madam,

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would be grateful for the following information:

- 1. How many Council Tax Support claimants were there in your authority on 31st March 2022?**
- 2. Of those claimants how many were:**
 - a. Working-age**
 - b. Receiving the maximum support available under your scheme**
- 3. How many court summons for non-payment of Council tax were issued in 2021/22?**
- 4. Of those summonsed how many received Council Tax Support?**
- 5. Of those summonsed and in receipt of Council Tax Support, how many were charged court costs and what was the total amount of those costs?**
- 6. How many Council Tax Support claimants had a liability order issued against them for non-payment of council tax in 2021/22?**
- 7. Of those Council Tax Support claimants with a liability order issued against them how many:**
 - a. Had deduction from benefits requested in 2021/22?**
 - b. Had deduction from earnings requested in 2021/22?**
 - c. Had enforcement agents engaged to recover the debt in 2021/22?**
- 8. What was the Minimum Payment under your Borough's Council Tax Support scheme in 2021/22?**
- 9. How many residents receiving council tax support were in arrears with their council tax as 31st March 2022?**
- 10. What is the total amount of council tax payable from people receiving council tax support in 2021/22?**
- 11. What is the total amount of council tax outstanding from people receiving council tax support in 2021/22?**
- 12. How much did you spend on council tax support in 2021/22?**
- 13. If you have a hardship fund specifically for CTS claimants in arrears:**
 - a) what was the budget for the hardship fund in 2021/22?**

- b) how much of the hardship fund was spent in in 2021/22?
c) how many CTS claimants were made an award from this hardship fund in 2021/22?

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

Response

I am writing to inform you that we have searched our records and although we hold some of the information requested, some of the information you requested is not held by London Borough of Barnet.

We have provided answers to your request below.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would be grateful for the following information:

1. How many Council Tax Support claimants were there in your authority on 31st March 2022?

27,884

2. Of those claimants how many were:

a. Working-age

20,570

b. Receiving the maximum support available under your scheme

11,418

3. How many court summons for non-payment of Council tax were issued in 2021/22?

18,780

4. Of those summonsed how many received Council Tax Support?

362

5. Of those summonsed and in receipt of Council Tax Support, how many were charged court costs and what was the total amount of those costs?

326 - £31,208.10

6. How many Council Tax Support claimants had a liability order issued against them for non-payment of council tax in 2021/22?

Not held, as no reporting functionality available to supply this breakdown - the total number issued was 15,692

7. Of those Council Tax Support claimants with a liability order issued against

them how many:

a. Had deduction from benefits requested in 2021/22?

Not held - No reporting functionality available to supply this breakdown

b. Had deduction from earnings requested in 2021/22?

Not held - No reporting functionality available to supply this breakdown

c. Had enforcement agents engaged to recover the debt in 2021/22?

Not held - No reporting functionality available to supply this breakdown

8. What was the Minimum Payment under your Borough's Council Tax Support scheme in 2021/22?

£0.07

9. How many residents receiving council tax support were in arrears with their council tax as 31st March 2022?

6,965

10. What is the total amount of council tax payable from people receiving council tax support in 2021/22?

£17,864,846.75

11. What is the total amount of council tax outstanding from people receiving council tax support in 2021/22?

£2,348,117.34

12. How much did you spend on council tax support in 2021/22?

£25,102,302.49

***13. If you have a hardship fund specifically for CTS claimants in arrears:
a) what was the budget for the hardship fund in 2021/22?***

There is no budget set aside for the hardship fund, however where a need is identified provision has been made for funding to be available to meet demand.

b) how much of the hardship fund was spent in in 2021/22?

£317,817.31

c) how many CTS claimants were made an award from this hardship fund in 2021/22?

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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.