

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale NW9 4EW
27 June 2022
Our ref: 8299901

Thank you for your request received on 27 May 2022, for the following information:

Dear Barnet Borough Council,

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from your organisation:

- 1) Could you please provide a count of how many households in your council area fall into each of the following council tax bands: A, B, C & D**
- 2) Could you please provide a count by council tax band of A, B, C & D how many of them have been repaid the council tax rebate which has been confirmed by the chancellor.**
- 3) Could you please provide a count of how many households in your council area fall into each of the following council tax bands: A, B, C & D and pay their tax via direct debit.**
- 4) Could you please provide a count by council tax band of A, B, C & D how many of them have which pay by direct debit have been repaid the council tax rebate which has been confirmed by the chancellor.**
- 5) Can you please confirm what the deadline is for those houses in band A, B, C & D to have their council tax rebate returned by. Could you also provide**

My preferred format for this data is excel or CSV format.

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 can identify any ways that my request could be refined I would be grateful for any further advice and assistance.

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

Thank you for your time and I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully,

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

Response

I can confirm that the council holds the information you requested. However we are withholding part of the information because we consider that the following exemption applies.

S12 - Cost limit (Exceeds Appropriate Limit)

We are refusing your request under section 12 because we estimate that compliance with your request will exceed the "appropriate limit" under section 12. The appropriate limit is £450 which is equivalent to 18 hours at £25 per hour. The per hour figure is set by Regulation rather than actual salary paid to any officers handling requests. The appropriate limit includes the time it will take the council to discover if it holds the information requested, to locate it, extract it and collate it as well as putting it into any particular format requested by the requester.

(a) We have calculated that it will take approx. 1,282 hours to comply with your request.

Our calculation is as follows:

There are 76,931 rebates awarded. No system report currently available to break down this by band, therefore we would have to manually check each record (1 minutes per record).

(b) We have calculated that it will take approx. 1,524 hours to comply with your request.

Our calculation is as follows:

There are 45,727 rebates awarded to direct debit payers. No system report currently available to break down this by band. We would have to manually check each record (2 minutes per record).

1) Could you please provide a count of how many households in your council area fall into each of the following council tax bands: A, B, C & D

See attached.

2) Could you please provide a count by council tax band of A, B, C & D how many of them have been repaid the council tax rebate which has been confirmed by the chancellor.

See exemption and calculation (a) above.

3) Could you please provide a count of how many households in your council area fall into each of the following council tax bands: A, B, C & D and pay their tax via direct debit.

See attached.

4) Could you please provide a count by council tax band of A, B, C & D how many of them have which pay by direct debit have been repaid the council tax rebate which has been confirmed by the chancellor.

See exemption and calculation (b) above.

5) Can you please confirm what the deadline is for those houses in band A, B, C & D to have their council tax rebate returned by. Could you also provide

30 September 2022

Advice and Assistance

We will be reporting at band level from July 2022 once the software supplier has built the new reporting functionality. This level of breakdown is not required by the Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing (DLUCH)

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.