

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue
Colindale
London
NW9 4EW
30 June 2022
Our ref: 8314963

Thank you for your request received on 8 June 2022, for the following information:

I am seeking the housing benefit paid for such accommodation, broken down into housing benefit, and to include service charges as outlined below.

Exempt accommodation is defined as: "1) 'Exempt accommodation' is a term used in Housing Benefit and Universal Credit to describe supported accommodation where the rules that normally limit the amount of rent covered by a benefit award do not apply. The usual meaning of 'exempt accommodation' is where the accommodation is provided by a landlord in the social or voluntary sector and the benefit claimant is provided with care, support or supervision by the landlord or by someone acting on the landlord's behalf. A claimant occupying exempt accommodation does not have their housing benefit restricted to local housing allowance."

Please can you disclose the following:

- 1. details of the lowest awarded eligible core rent;**
- 2. details of the highest awarded eligible core rent;**
- 3. details of the lowest awarded gross eligible rent (i.e. inclusive of the core rent and the eligible service charges);**
- 4. details of the highest awarded gross eligible rent (i.e. inclusive of the core rent and the eligible service charges); and**
- 5. Please confirm the names of exempt accommodation providers in your area. Please name the providers/landlords who currently hold exempt accommodation status in respect of any of their residents.**

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 some of the information because we consider that the following exemption applies to it.

S12 - Cost limit (Exceeds Appropriate Limit)

More information regarding the application of Section 12 exemption is given under the specific part of your request.

1. details of the lowest awarded eligible core rent;

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.

We have calculated that it will take approximately 42 hours to comply with your request. Our calculation is as follows:

Eligible service charges are imbedded in the gross rent figures and are not otherwise specified in the SHBE reporting. To obtain this information we need to manually check all claims listed on monthly SHBE returns. It is estimated it would take 5 minutes to access each claim and cross check the rent breakdown. There are currently 508 supported / exempt accommodation cases. $508 \times 5 / 60 = 42.3$ hours per SHBE return.

2. details of the highest awarded eligible core rent;

Section 12 exemption applies as described in question 1.

3. details of the lowest awarded gross eligible rent (i.e. inclusive of the core rent and the eligible service charges);

£90.34

4. details of the highest awarded gross eligible rent (i.e. inclusive of the core rent and the eligible service charges); and

£786.37

5. Please confirm the names of exempt accommodation providers in your area. Please name the providers/landlords who currently hold exempt accommodation status in respect of any of their residents.

Accomplish Group

Asra Housing Group

Barnet Mencap

Birnbeck Housing Association

Candour Housing Cic

Centrepoint Dimensions (uk) Ltd
EHSL Eleanor Palmer Trust
Encircle Housing Association
Gentle Hands Care Homes Ltd
Hanover Housing Association
Homeless Action In Barnet
Jewish Blind And Disabled
Jewish Community Housing Association Ltd
Kick Start Homes Cic
Kisharon
Langdon Housing
Latin American Women'S Aid Refuge
Leathersellers Barnet Charity
Metropolitan Housing Trust
Network Homes
Next Steps Ltd
Norwood Schools Ltd
Notting Hill Housing Trust
One Housing Group Limited
Origin Housing
Peabody Trust.
Pinnacle Group Limited
Reside Housing Association Limited
Retail Trust
Richmond Fellowship
Royal Scottish Corporation
Sanctuary Housing Association
Sean Moses Ltd
Solace Womens Aid
The Finchley Charities

The Langdon Foundation

The Retail Trust

Westlon Housing Association

Westmoreland Supported Housing

Advice and Assistance

To assist with question 1 & 2, we could provide you with a sample of claims that list the core rent and eligible service charges.

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.

