

2 Bristol Avenue  
Colindale  
London  
NW9 4EW  
25 July 2022  
Our ref: 8327029

Thank you for your request received on 24 June 2022, for the following information:

**I am writing to make a Freedom of Information request concerning your Council's expenditure on Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) for the 2021/22 financial year.**

**I am aware some information on DHPs is submitted to the Department for Work & Pensions in its analysis of End of Year returns from local authorities. This includes the total number of awards, DHP financial expenditure and Government contribution original allocation. These monitoring returns provide details of the purpose of the DHP award, such as to secure and move to alternative accommodation and rental costs, split by the welfare form for which households have been affected.**

**What is not included in this information is the amount of DHPs that were awarded per purpose of DHP award, and the amount/value of DHPs applied for which are not awarded.**

**I am requesting this information, as detailed in Table 1 below, and also request splits of this data by the age band of the claimant. If possible, please can the figures just for those where the claimant is aged between 16 and 30 be provided.**

**With regards to this request, it may be the case that you do not hold the summary data of total DHP applications by age. If this is not held accessibly, and to provide age details would require opening each case manually and thus take longer than the Freedom of Information request grants, I would ask for you to please ignore the age part of the request and would only ask for the total numbers/values of successes/declines of DHP applications.**

**In summary, I am requesting (as per Table 1):**

- \* Total number of DHPs granted, split by purpose of payment**
- \* Total value of DHPs granted, split by purpose of payment**
- \* Total number of DHPs declined, split by purpose of payment (if records are kept of this)**
- \* Total value of DHPs declined, split by purpose of payment (if records are kept of this)**
- \* The above information broken down by age groups detailed in Table 1 - although if processing this would be beyond the scope of the FOI, please ignore this element.**

**Separately, I am requesting information on your Council's use of rent guarantee schemes: these are typically used to help people facing**

homelessness by providing a written guarantee to the landlord to cover any unpaid rent/damage. The information I require is written below, but also in Table 2:

\* Total amount of rent guarantees issued in 2021/22

o How many rent guarantees were issued to care leavers

o Age bands of those issued rent guarantees (if this data is available / accessible within the time allocated to FOI requests)

I request for this information to be provided electronically.

Please do let me know if you need any further information or have any questions about this request.

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

## **Response**

### **Part 1 - DHP's**

I can confirm that the council holds the information you requested in relation to DHP's. However we are withholding some of the information because we consider the following exemption applies to it.

#### **S12 - Cost limit (Exceeds Appropriate Limit)**

The parts of your request this exemption applies to are the age breakdowns for all questions & the total value of declined applications.

We are refusing this part of 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 approx 192.5 hours to comply with the age breakdowns part of your request, and 104.5 hours to comply with the value of declined applications. Our calculation is as follows:

#### **Age breakdowns.**

Manual checking of the DHP applications is required to gather this information. There are 2310 DHP applications and it is estimated it will take 5 minutes to manually check each claim.  $2310 \times 5 / 60 = 192.50$  hours.

#### **Value of declined DHP's**

Manual checking of applications is required to gather this information. There are 1253 declined applications and it is estimated it would take 5 minutes to collate the value claimed (where applicable).  $1253 \times 5 / 60 = 104.41$  hours.

Please refer to the table below for the rest of your request regarding DHP's.

			IF UNAVAILABLE / ABLE TO ACCESS WITHIN FOI TIME LIMIT, PLEASE IGNORE						
		TOTAL	16- 24	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65 +	≤30
Total <b>number</b> of DHP applications	<b>TOTAL</b>	2310							
	Successful	1057							
	Declined / Unsuccessful	1253							
Total <b>value</b> of DHP applications	<b>TOTAL</b>	2,076,714.23							
	Successful	2,076,714.23							
	Declined / Unsuccessful	S12 exempt							
Total <b>number</b> of DHP applications to help secure and move to alternative accommodati on (eg rent deposit)	<b>TOTAL</b>	29							
	Successful	29							
	Declined / Unsuccessful	N/A							
Total <b>value</b> of DHP applications to help secure and move to alternative accommodati on (eg rent deposit) (£)	<b>TOTAL</b>	25,185.24							
	Successful	25,185.24							
	Declined / Unsuccessful	N/A							
Total <b>number</b> of DHP applications to with short	<b>TOTAL</b>	69							
	Successful	69							
	Declined / Unsuccessful	N/A							

term rental costs while the claimant secures and moves to alternative accommodation									
Total <b>value</b> of DHP applications to help with short term rental costs while the claimant secures and moves to alternative accommodation (£)	<b>TOTAL</b>	81,997.72							
	Successful	81,997.72							
	Declined / Unsuccessful	N/A							
Total <b>number</b> of DHP applications to help with short term rental costs while the claimant seeks employment	<b>TOTAL</b>	174							
	Successful	174							
	Declined / Unsuccessful	N/A							
Total <b>value</b> of DHP applications to help with short term rental costs while the claimant seeks employment (£)	<b>TOTAL</b>	279,475.32							
	Successful	279,475.32							
	Declined / Unsuccessful	N/A							

Total <b>number</b> of DHP applications to help with on-going rental costs for disabled person in adapted accommodation	<b>TOTAL</b>	0								
	Successful	0								
	Declined / Unsuccessful	N/A								
Total <b>value</b> of DHP applications to help with on-going rental costs for disabled person in adapted accommodation (£)	<b>TOTAL</b>	NIL								
	Successful	NIL								
	Declined / Unsuccessful	N/A								
Total <b>number</b> of DHP applications to help with on-going rental costs for a foster carer	<b>TOTAL</b>	4								
	Successful	4								
	Declined / Unsuccessful	N/A								
Total <b>value</b> of DHP applications to help with on-going rental costs for a foster carer (£)	<b>TOTAL</b>	2,658.57								
	Successful	2,658.57								
	Declined / Unsuccessful	N/A								
Total <b>number</b> of DHP applications to help with on-going rental costs for any other reason	<b>TOTAL</b>	781								
	Successful	781								
	Declined / Unsuccessful	N/A								



## **Advice and Assistance**

Because manual checking of claims is required to compile the information classed exempt under S12, it is difficult to advise you on ways in which to streamline your request. Instead we could provide this information for a sample of DHP applications.

## **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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.org.uk)). There is no charge for making an appeal.