

London Borough of Barnet  
2 Bristol Avenue,  
Colindale NW9 4EW  
26 July 2022  
Our ref: 8327104

Thank you for your request received on 29 June 2022, for the following information:

**Dear FOI Team: I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act to ask for the following information:**

**1. How many households in your Local Authority area are eligible for the £150 council tax rebate announced by DLUHC in March 2022?**

For the avoidance of doubt, I am referring to households eligible for the scheme as per the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-council-tax-rebate-2022-23-billing-authority-guidance/support-for-energy-bills-the-council-tax-rebate-2022-23-billing-authority-guidance>

- a) Of these households, how many pay council tax by Direct Debit, and how many by other means? (e.g. cash / phone / cheque payments)
- b) For households eligible for the £150 council tax rebate that pay for council tax by Direct Debit, how many have now received their £150 payment by July 1st 2022 and how was their payment processed? (i.e. transfer via BACS, postal cheque etc.)
- c) For households eligible for the £150 council tax rebate that do not pay for council tax by Direct Debit, how many have received their £150 payment by July 1st 2022 and how was their payment processed? (i.e. transfer via BACS, postal cheque etc.)

**2. Is your council one of the 152 authorities responsible for distributing the Household Support Fund? And if so, could you please tell me how many applications has your Local Authority received for Household Support Fund Payments between December 6th 2021 to July 1st 2022? Please can you provide this information on a month-by-month basis?**

For the avoidance of doubt, I am referring to households eligible for the scheme as per the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/household-support-fund-guidance-for-local-councils/household-support-fund-final-guidance-for-county-councils-and-unitary-authorities-in-england>

- a) Of the applications made for the Household Support Fund payments between December 6th 2021 to July 1st 2022, what percentage of applications have been successful?
- b) For households that have received the Household Support Fund payments between December 6th 2021 to July 1st 2022, how was their payment processed? (i.e. transfer via BACS, postal cheque etc.)
- c) A breakdown of number of awards made by type of household (i.e. with

children, pensioners)

d) A breakdown of number of awards made by purpose (i.e. energy and water, food, housing costs, other essentials)

e) What steps has your Local Authority undertaken to ensure that Household Support Fund payments are being used for their defined purposes?

If you need any further information from me in order to deal with my request, please call me.

If you are encountering practical difficulties with complying with this request, please contact me as soon as possible (in line with your section 16 duty to advise and assist requesters) so that we can discuss the matter and if necessary I can modify the request.

If it is necessary for any reason to redact any information, please redact the minimum necessary and send me the rest of the material, explaining the legal grounds for each redaction.

Please can you acknowledge receipt of this request.

Many thanks for your assistance.

All the best,

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

## **Response**

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below

***1. How many households in your Local Authority area are eligible for the £150 council tax rebate announced by DLUHC in March 2022?***

77,250 however this number is being reviewed due to changes in empty properties.

***a) Of these households, how many pay council tax by Direct Debit, and how many by other means? (e.g. cash / phone / cheque payments)***

45,777 at the time of this response pay by direct debit and 31,204 pay via alternative methods. There are approximately 400 accounts being reviewed before a decision is made on the rebate and the method of payment for these rebates.

***b) For households eligible for the £150 council tax rebate that pay for council tax by Direct Debit, how many have now received their £150 payment by July 1st 2022 and how was their payment processed? (i.e. transfer via BACS, postal cheque etc.)***

45,777 received the rebate by BACS as they pay by Direct Debit.

***c) For households eligible for the £150 council tax rebate that do not pay for council tax by Direct Debit, how many have received their £150 payment by July 1st 2022 and how was their payment processed? (i.e. transfer via BACS, postal cheque etc.)***

31,204 were issued with a Post Office voucher, of which 21,127 have redeemed the voucher.

**2. Is your council one of the 152 authorities responsible for distributing the Household Support Fund? And if so, could you please tell me how many applications has your Local Authority received for Household Support Fund Payments between December 6th 2021 to July 1st 2022? Please can you provide this information on a month-by-month basis?**

Yes – There is no application process - Criteria is households with children financially impacted by Covid/Covid recovery/low income families – families identified through those who work closely with them early years settings/schools/health visitors/social workers. The criteria for households with children is at [Household Support Fund | Barnet Council](#)

**For the avoidance of doubt, I am referring to households eligible for the scheme as per the following link:**

**a) Of the applications made for the Household Support Fund payments between December 6th 2021 to July 1st 2022, what percentage of applications have been successful?**

There is no application process - families are identified through schools, EYs settings or families contacting the 0-19 service directly

**b) For households that have received the Household Support Fund payments between December 6th 2021 to July 1st 2022, how was their payment processed? (i.e. transfer via BACS, postal cheque etc.)**

Food vouchers are issued to families with children identified through EYs settings, schools, health visitors and social workers will continue as in previous rounds. Information for parents and how they can access through these professionals is also available on the council website

**c) A breakdown of number of awards made by type of household (i.e. with children, pensioners)**

Total Value of Awards split by Household Composition

	a) Households with Children	b) Households without Children	c) Total (a+b)
<b>Spend (£s)</b>	£1,955,106.31	£279,771.58	£2,234,877.89
<b>Volumes</b>	15,494	1,111	16,605

Above figures for Children's Services until March 2022. From 01 April 2022 to 30 June 2022 - £619,906.50; 14,655 children.

**d) A breakdown of number of awards made by purpose (i.e. energy and water, food, housing costs, other essentials)**

Total Value of Awards Split by Category

	a) Food	b) Energy and	c) Essentials linked to	d) Wider Essentials	e) Housing Costs	e) Total (a+b+c+d+e)
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		Water	Energy and Water			
<b>Spend (£s)</b>	£1,984,877.89	0	0	£250,000.00	0	£2,234,877.89
<b>Volumes</b>	14,676	0	0	1,929	0	16,605

Above figures for Children's Services until March 2022. From 01 April to 30 June 2022 - £619,906.50; all for food vouchers.

***e) What steps has your Local Authority undertaken to ensure that Household Support Fund payments are being used for their defined purposes?***

For Households with children we haven't had individual requests – parents are advised to talk to their schools, health visitors, Early Years setting/Children's Centres who can include in their numbers submitted to the LA for funding of identified children in their school/setting.

**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.