

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale NW9 4EW
12 December 2022
Our ref: 8648832

Thank you for your request received on 11 November 2022, for the following information:

Dear Sir/Madam,

Under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), please tell me:

- 1. How many working-age residents in your borough receive some amount of Council Tax Support?**
- 2. Of these, how many currently receive one or more means-tested 'legacy benefit'?**
- 3. Is an application for Council Tax Support automatically made when someone resident in your borough applies for Universal Credit?**
- 4. How far back do you allow a Council Tax Support claim to be backdated?**
- 5. What safeguards or procedures do you have in place to ensure someone moving from 'legacy benefits' to Universal Credit continues to receive their Council Tax Support entitlement?**

For clarity, the legacy benefits I am referring to in point 2) are:

- * Income-based Jobseekers' Allowance**
- * Income-based Employment Support Allowance**
- * Income Support**
- * Child or Working Tax Credits**
- * Housing Benefit (if possible, except where the recipient is in Temporary Accommodation)**

If you only hold information relating to point 2) regarding some of these benefits, please provide that information.

If you need any further clarification regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to your response in no later than 20 working days.

Best wishes,

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 working-age residents in your borough receive some amount of Council Tax Support?

19,982

2. Of these, how many currently receive one or more means-tested 'legacy benefit'?

8,355

3. Is an application for Council Tax Support automatically made when someone resident in your borough applies for Universal Credit?

No, we still require a claim for Council Tax Support to be made.

4. How far back do you allow a Council Tax Support claim to be backdated?

6 months

5. What safeguards or procedures do you have in place to ensure someone moving from 'legacy benefits' to Universal Credit continues to receive their Council Tax Support entitlement?

Council Tax support claims remain in payment if someone moves to Universal credit (UC) from a legacy Benefit. If we receive a notification from the DWP someone has moved onto UC that is not already claiming with us, we attempt to contact that individual and invite them to claim Council Tax Support.

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.