

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale NW9 4EW
9 February 2023
Our ref: 8972892

Thank you for your request received on 13 January 2023, for the following information:

Freedom of Information Request:

For financial years 2019/20 2020/21 2021/22 provide the following:

- 1. How many Non Domestic rebills have you produced due changes in circumstances brought to your attention after the change? I am referring to Liability changes and removal of Small Business Rate Relief**
- 2. How many Council Tax rebills have you produced due to changes in circumstances brought to your attention after the change? I am referring to Liability changes and removal of Single Person Discount**
- 3. When did you last review Small Business Rate Relief?**
- 4. When reviewed how many accounts had Small Business Rate Relief removed retrospectively?**
- 5. Please provide a year by year breakdown of the number of accounts that had Small Business Rates Relief removed; ie how many were backdated to financial year 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16 etc**
- 6. How many fraud prosecutions resulted from this exercise?**
- 7. When did you last review Single Person Discounts?**
- 8. When reviewed how many accounts had Single Person Discount removed retrospectively?**
- 9. Please provide a year by year breakdown of the number of accounts that had Single Person Discount removed; ie how many were back dated to 1993/94, 1994/95, 1995/96 etc**
- 10. How many Council Tax penalties did you issue as a result of this exercise? And how many for issued for others reasons not SPD**
- 11. How many fraud prosecutions resulted from this exercise?**
- 12. How many penalties did you issue for failure to return the review form?**
- 13. How many appeals were submitted to the VT as a result of this?**
- 14. Of the appeals submitted how many were upheld?**
- 15. How many penalties were issued due to incorrect, withheld or changes being reported after the 21days on Council Tax Reduction**
- 16. What % of risk has been identified when records have been compared to companies such as 'Destin solutions or Experian, this question is not narrow to the companies given as an example)**

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

For financial years 2019/20 2020/21 2021/22 provide the following:

1. How many Non Domestic rebills have you produced due changes in circumstances brought to your attention after the change? I am referring to Liability changes and removal of Small Business Rate Relief

Please note that due to restrictions in our reporting system, we are unable identify the reason for the rebill, but have provided the total for each financial year requested.

2019-20 - 16,614

2020-21 - 15,971

2021-22 - 19,079

2. How many Council Tax rebills have you produced due to changes in circumstances brought to your attention after the change? I am referring to Liability changes and removal of Single Person Discount

Please note that due to restrictions in our reporting system, we are unable identify the reason for the rebill, but have provided the total for each financial year requested.

2019-20 - 236,870

2020-21 - 233,402

2021-22 - 92,423

3. When did you last review Small Business Rate Relief?

We are not contractually required to conduct a review of Small Business Rate Relief. We therefore do not retain any information regarding how many accounts may have had Small Business Rate Relief removed

4. When reviewed how many accounts had Small Business Rate Relief removed retrospectively?

n/a

5. Please provide a year by year breakdown of the number of accounts that had Small Business Rates Relief removed; ie how many were backdated to financial year 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16 etc

n/a

6. How many fraud prosecutions resulted from this exercise?

n/a

7. When did you last review Single Person Discounts?

August 2022

8. When reviewed how many accounts had Single Person Discount removed retrospectively?

2,139

9. Please provide a year by year breakdown of the number of accounts that had Single Person Discount removed; ie how many were back dated to 1993/94, 1994/95, 1995/96 etc

Due to restrictions in our reporting system we are unable to provide the financial year the Single Persons Discount (SPD) was removed from but can provide the number of SPD's removed in each of the financial years mentioned above.

2019-20 -1976

2020-21 – 3612

2021-22 - 2140

10. How many Council Tax penalties did you issue as a result of this exercise? And how many for issued for others reasons not SPD

None

11. How many fraud prosecutions resulted from this exercise?

None

12. How many penalties did you issue for failure to return the review form?

None

13. How many appeals were submitted to the VT as a result of this?

None

14. Of the appeals submitted how many were upheld?

n/a

15. How many penalties were issued due to incorrect, withheld or changes being reported after the 21days on Council Tax Reduction

None

16. What % of risk has been identified when records have been compared to companies such as 'Destin solutions or Experian, this question is not narrow to the companies given as an example)

Barnet Council use a high, medium and low risk score for accounts following Experian searches etc.

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.