

2 Bristol Avenue
Colindale
London
NW9 4EW

7 February 2023
Our ref: 9072251

Thank you for your request received on 10 January 2023, for the following information:

Please do not include information about any claimants who are receiving support because they are dealing with complex physical and mental health issues.

Please note the questions below relate only to that/those claimant (s) currently in receipt of the highest amount of housing support being paid by or via the council.

1...What is currently the highest amount of housing support (including but not limited to housing benefit) currently being paid by the council either to and or on behalf of a claimant. Can you state how much is being paid to or on behalf of the claimant (s) either on a weekly or a monthly basis. Was this payment being made directly to the claimant? If not, who was receiving the payment? For instance, was the payment being made to a landlord or other kind of accommodation provider. Can you specify? In the case of the payment can you specify what type of payment it is. For instance, is it housing benefit?

2...How many claimants are currently claiming at this level. In the case of each of these claimants claiming at this level are any required to repay any part of the payment to the council, can you, please state the level of repayment on a weekly or monthly basis.

3...In the case of each of the claimants claiming at this level what is the total amount of housing support the council has paid out either to them and or on their behalf. This particular figure may include payments at other levels as well as payments for other addresses. Can you state when the claimant first began claiming housing support? Can you state for how long the claim for housing support has been ongoing.

4...In the case of each of the claimants claiming at this level can you state how many dependents are currently living with them in the property (ies) covered by their current claim. These dependents will include spouses, partners, children and members of an extended family. Can you provide the ages of each dependent?

5...In the case of each claimant claiming at this level can you provide some details of their current accommodation. Can you state whether they are living in a hotel or in bed and breakfast accommodation or in a hostel or similar.

Alternatively, are the claimants living in a flat, apartment, maisonette or similar? Can you please state which? Alternatively, are the claimants living in a house? If the claimant is living in a house, can you provide the following details. How many storeys does the property have? Is the property detached, semi-detached, a bungalow, terraced or other? Can you please state which? How many gardens does the property have? Are the garden (s) at the front or back of the property? How many bedrooms does the property have? How many bathrooms does the property have? How many toilets does the property have? Does the property have a garage? Does the property have a conservatory?

6...In the case of each claimant claiming at this level and irrespective of the type of accommodation used by these claimants is their current accommodation within the council's own geographical area? If it is NOT within the council's own geographical area, can you state which town, city, borough, village the property is in. If the accommodation is in the council's geographical area, can you, please provide details of the electoral ward. Can you also provide details of the post code?

7...For whatever reason has the council (and not just its benefit or housing department) asked the aforementioned claimants for details of the claimant's place of birth. If the answer is yes can the council state, the claimant's country of birth.

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

Response

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds the information you requested.

However, we believe that the exemptions detailed below apply to some of this information and this is withheld. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

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Housing benefit - £798.08 per week - paid to Landlord.

2...How many claimants are currently claiming at this level. In the case of each of these claimants claiming at this level are any required to repay any part of the payment to the council, can you, please state the level of repayment on a weekly or monthly basis.

One. No repayment.

3...In the case of each of the claimants claiming at this level what is the total amount of housing support the council has paid out either to them and or on their behalf. This particular figure may include payments at other levels as well as payments for other addresses. Can you state when the claimant first began claiming housing support? Can you state for how long the claim for housing support has been ongoing.

At this level since 08.08.2022. Claim in payment from 14.03.2011, total paid £232,367.18.

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This information is exempt as we are applying the exemption under Section 40 (2) to this information. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

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Not held

Refusal Notice Section 40(2)

We consider that the absolute exemption set out in Section 40 (Personal information) subsection (2) applies to the information requested. Therefore, we have decided to withhold the information.

[Part 1 of Schedule 19](#) of the Data Protection Act 2018 amends the personal data exemption under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000(FOI). These are consequential amendments designed to ensure that the correct provisions of the GDPR and the new Act are referenced instead of the now repealed DPA 1998. They will not fundamentally impact when personal data can, and cannot, be disclosed in response to an FOI request.

Personal Information is governed by the Data Protection Act legislation and is defined as any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject')". It adds that: an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location number, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.

The withheld information is exempt because disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle which requires that personal data is processed fairly and lawfully. Disclosure of the requested information would breach this principle and in particular the requirement of fairness.

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.