

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London, NW9 4EW
8 February 2023
Our ref: 9063816

Thank you for your request received on 25 January 2023, for the following information:

this is a freedom of information request:

- How many reports of an unlicensed HMO were made to the council across the last 5 years? Can I get a breakdown of the number for each year please.**
- How many fines has the council given out to landlords for failing to have a HMO license over the last five years? And what is the total value of these fines? Can I get an annual breakdown please.**
- How many landlords has the council taken to tribunals over rent-repayment orders in each of the last 5 years, and what was the success rate? A yearly breakdown of this please.**
- How many landlords have been banned by the council for operating without a HMO license over the last 5 years? Please can I have a yearly breakdown.**

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

Response

Figures given are for the administrative years shown. Those for 2022/23 are given as of today's date and are therefore a partial year which ends on 31 March 2023.

Q1 - How many reports of an unlicensed HMO were made to the council across the last 5 years? Can I get a breakdown of the number for each year please.

It has not been possible to identify the number of reports of unlicensed HMOs we have received from the record because of the generic coding used for complaints in connections with HMOs, both licensed and unlicensed.

Q2 How many fines has the council given out to landlords for failing to have a HMO license over the last five years? And what is the total value of these fines? Can I get an annual breakdown please.

Years	Number of fines from successful prosecutions	Value ¹
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2018/19	4	£23,839
2019/20	3	£37,752
2020/21	1	£33,445
2021/22	1	£10,180
2022/23	0	0

¹These are the value of the fines including costs and victim surcharges. Some fines given by magistrates are for multiple offences including a failure to licence but these are not awarded separately and may therefore be included in these figures.

Years	Number of fines from penalty notices	Value ²
2018/19	8	£70,100
2019/20	12	£50,225
2020/21	12	£140,100
2021/22	1	£10,500
2022/23	0	-

²The value of the penalties as demanded. Financial penalty notices are an alternative to criminal prosecution. A prosecution cannot be taken where a penalty notice has been served for the same offence or vice versa.

Q3- How many landlords has the council taken to tribunals over rent-repayment orders in each of the last 5 years, and what was the success rate? A yearly breakdown of this please.

Years	Number of Rent Repayment Orders	Successful
2018/19	0	-
2019/20	1	1
20220/21	0	-
2021/22	0	-
2022/23	0	-

Q4- How many landlords have been banned by the council for operating without a HMO license over the last 5 years? Please can I have a yearly breakdown.

Number of Banning Orders made for operating without a licence 0

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.