

2 Bristol Avenue
Colindale
London
NW9 4EW
21 February 2023
Our ref: 9040199

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

I would be most grateful if you could provide the following information in respect of providers of exempt accommodation (regardless of whether they are registered as providers of social housing with the RSH) covering the period of the last 3 financial years (i.e. 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22):

- 1. details of the lowest awarded eligible core rent;**
- 2. details of the highest awarded eligible core rent;**
- 3. details of the lowest awarded gross eligible rent (i.e. inclusive of the core rent and the eligible service charges);**
- 4. details of the highest awarded gross eligible rent (i.e. inclusive of the core rent and the eligible service charges); and**
- 5. details of any core rents and gross eligible rents where the claimed amount is higher than the highest awarded amounts AND has been subject to an appeal to the first-tier tribunal social entitlement chamber.**

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

Response

I can confirm that the council holds some of the information you requested. However we are withholding some of the information because we consider that an exemption applies to it.

Further details of where this exemption applies are given below.

1. details of the lowest awarded eligible core rent;

See Refusal Notice below

2. details of the highest awarded eligible core rent;

See Refusal Notice below

3. details of the lowest awarded gross eligible rent (i.e. inclusive of the core rent and the eligible service charges);

2019/20 = £58.74
2020/21 = £60.24
2021/22 = £61.80

4. details of the highest awarded gross eligible rent (i.e. inclusive of the core rent and the eligible service charges); and

2019/20 = £688.62
2020/21 = £688.62
2021/22 = £726.17

5. details of any core rents and gross eligible rents where the claimed amount is higher than the highest awarded amounts AND has been subject to an appeal to the first-tier tribunal social entitlement chamber.

Information not held.

Refusal Notice

S12 – Exceeds Appropriate Limit (cost limit)

We are refusing parts 1 & 2 of your request under section 12 because we estimate that compliance with your request will exceed the "appropriate limit" under section 12. The appropriate limit is £450 which is equivalent to 18 hours at £25 per hour. The per hour figure is set by Regulation rather than actual salary paid to any officers handling requests. The appropriate limit includes the time it will take the council to discover if it holds the information requested, to locate it, extract it and collate it as well as putting it into any particular format requested by the requester.

We have calculated that it will take approximately 1571 hours to comply with your request.

Our calculation is as follows: Eligible service charges are imbedded in the gross rent figures and are not otherwise specified in the SHBE reporting. To obtain information on core rents, we'd need to manually check claims listed on 36 SHBE returns. It is estimated it would take 5 minutes to access each claim and cross check the rent breakdown. There were 524 supported / exempt accommodation cases at the end of 21/22: $524 \times 5 / 60 = 43.66$ hours per SHBE return, $\times 36$ months = 1571 hours.

Advice and Assistance

As our reporting tools do not separate core rent and eligible service charges, manual checking of claims is necessary to provide the information requested under part 1 & 2. Unfortunately due to the volume of exempt / supported claims we have on a monthly basis, we are unable to comply with your request for our minimum reporting period (1 month). Instead, we could provide a random sample of cases, and list core rents and eligible services.

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.