

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale NW9 4EW
10 March 2023
Our ref: 9248796

Thank you for your request received on 22 February 2023, for the following information:

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

On 19th December 2022 the Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing and Communities released details of the provisional local government finance settlement for 2023/24.

I would therefore like to request

- * The change to your Core Spending Power (CSP) for 2023/4 over 2022/3 as a result of the local government finance settlement.**
- * The impact of inflation on the council's 2022/3 budget, as measured against the original 2022/3 budget.**
- * The estimated impact of inflation on the council's budget for 2023/24**
- * How much you had originally forecast the inflationary increase in costs to be for a) 2022-3 and b) 2023-4 in percentage and actual terms.**
- * Details of any loans (PWL or money market) taken out by the council after 30/9/22 and the loan provider, terms and time period for these loans.**

I would like to request that the above information to be provided to me as both as paper and electronic copies

I understand that you are required to respond to my request within the 20 working days after you receive this letter. I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request.

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

Response

I am writing to inform you that we have searched our records and although we hold some of the information requested, some of the information you requested is not held by London Borough of Barnet.

We have provided answers to your request below.

1. The change to your Core Spending Power (CSP) for 2023/4 over 2022/3 as a result of the local government finance settlement.

The CSP figure published by government assumes that councils increase their Council Tax and Adult Social Care precept to the maximum allowable. For 23/24, the maximum was 4.99% and LB Barnet are increasing combined Council Tax and Social Care Precept by 3.80%. Max CSP figures can be found [here](#) with the max 22/23 and 23/24 figures shown in the table below:

	2023/24 (£m)	2022/23 (£m)
Settlement Funding Assessment	68.688	65.249
Compensation for under-indexing the business rates multiplier	10.379	6.003
Council Tax Requirement excluding parish precepts	217.200	203.731
Improved Better Care Fund	9.622	9.622
Social Care Grant	20.801	12.059
ASC Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund	3.390	0.977
Discharge Fund	1.349	-
New Homes Bonus	1.389	4.847
Services Grant	2.375	4.049
Lower Tier Services Grant	-	0.631
Adjustment for rolled in grants¹	-	1.920
Core Spending Power	335.192	309.087
Percentage Increase	8.4%	

2. The impact of inflation on the council's 2022/3 budget, as measured against the original 2022/3 budget.

The original 2022/23 budget allowed for total pay and non-pay inflation of £10.170m with the final impact being £13.289m (an increase of 31%).

3. The estimated impact of inflation on the council's budget for 2023/24

For the 23/24 budget, we've assumed total inflationary pressures of £17.745m. The approved budget papers with further detail can be found [here](#) (agenda item 11.1).

4. How much you had originally forecast the inflationary increase in costs to be for a) 2022-3 and b) 2023-4 in percentage and actual terms.

For 22/23, we'd assumed 4.62% non-pay inflation (£7.443m) and 2.0% pay inflation (£2.727m); for 23/24, we've assumed 7.97% non-pay inflation (£13.284m) and 4.0% pay inflation (£4.461m)

5. Details of any loans (PWLB or money market) taken out by the council after 30/9/22 and the loan provider, terms and time period for these loans.

We haven't taken any new borrowing since 30/09/22

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.