

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London, NW9 4EW
14 March 2023
Our ref: 9198668

Thank you for your request received on 15 February 2023, for the following information:

Under the FOI act, please can you confirm the following:

1. In total, how many purchase ledger invoices (volumes), did Barnet Council process in the last financial year (i.e. 2021/22)?

2. Do you currently use / have you within the last four years used any third-party companies to carry out a duplicate payments / purchase ledger statement review?

- a. If so, please specify the name of the third-party company.
- b. Please confirm the dates of which the review was carried out.
- c. How many years of data was reviewed? Please specify the dates.
- d. Please confirm total identified value and volume of claims.
- e. Please confirm total recovered value and volume of claims. Cancelled
- f. Please provide a breakdown of the values and volumes recovered, between the following categories:
Duplicates / errors £ /
VAT £ /
Statements / credits £ /
Other £ /

g. How much did the third-party company invoice for any review work undertaken?

h. When is the next audit expected to take place?

3. Does Barnet Council currently use any software in order to detect and prevent duplicate payments?

If so, please specify:

- a. The name of the software used
- b. The name of the company who provides the software
- c. How long the service is contracted for
- d. The expiry date of the contract
- e. The total contract cost

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.

Under the FOI act, please can you confirm the following:

1. In total, how many purchase ledger invoices (volumes), did Barnet Council process in the last financial year (i.e. 2021/22)?

In the financial year 2021/22, 28,820 invoices were processed.

This excludes APIs and invoice payments via interfaces. This is because these are a mix of payment requests and one-time supplier invoices.

2. Do you currently use / have you within the last four years used any third-party companies to carry out a duplicate payments / purchase ledger statement review?

No

- a. If so, please specify the name of the third-party company.***
- b. Please confirm the dates of which the review was carried out.***
- c. How many years of data was reviewed? Please specify the dates.***
- d. Please confirm total identified value and volume of claims.***
- e. Please confirm total recovered value and volume of claims. Cancelled***
- f. Please provide a breakdown of the values and volumes recovered, between the following categories:***
 - Duplicates / errors £ /***
 - VAT £ /***
 - Statements / credits £ /***
 - Other £ /***

g. How much did the third-party company invoice for any review work undertaken?

h. When is the next audit expected to take place?

3. Does Barnet Council currently use any software in order to detect and prevent duplicate payments?

No

If so, please specify:

- a. The name of the software used***
- b. The name of the company who provides the software***
- c. How long the service is contracted for***
- d. The expiry date of the contract***
- e. The total contract cost***

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.