

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale NW9 4EW
18 April 2023
Our ref: 9460168

Thank you for your request received on 16 March 2023, for the following information:

Dear Barnet,

In relation to the Freedom of Information Act of 2000, and subject to section 40(2) on personal data, please can I request a complete and most-recently updated list of all business (non-residential) property rates data, including the following fields:

- 1: Billing Authority Property Reference Code (linking the property to the public VOA database reference)**
- 2: Firm's Trading Name (i.e. property occupant or ratepayer)**
- 3: Full Property Address (Number, Street, Postal Code, Town)**
- 4: Occupation / Vacancy status**
- 5: Date of Occupation / Vacancy**
- 6: Rateable Value**
- 7: VOA Code**
- 8: VOA Description**
- 9: SIC Description**
- 10: Scat Code**
- 11: Scat Code Description**
- 12: Liability Start Date**
- 13: Discretionary Relief %**
- 14: Discretionary Relief St Date**
- 15: Retail Relief Previously Claimed (TRUE/FALSE)**
- 15: Mandatory Relief %**
- 16: Mandatory Relief Start Date**
- 17: Exemption Granted (TRUE/FALSE)**
- 18: Exemption Start Date**
- 19: Full Sbr**
- 20: Buffer Sbr**
- 21: Lower Multiplier**
- 22: The value of any over payment made**
- 23: The years(s) in which any payment may have been made**
- 24: The value of write back which remains unclaimed.**
- 25: The years(s) in which write back was made (if available).**

If you are unable to provide an absolute 'Occupation / Vacancy' status, please provide the Exemptions and / or Reliefs that a particular property may be receiving.

NOTE: While FOI's are meant to be requestor blind, the data is actively used by national government and UK universities to inform the economic response to COVID-19. Most recently, the data was used by MHCLG for the assessment of support to local authorities via the levelling up fund.

Please publish quickly so that organisations trying to support your local authority can do so, and, if you have any difficulties, please contact me so that I may help.

Please provide these data as machine-readable as either a CSV or Microsoft Excel file, capable of re-use, and under terms of the Open Government Licence (reuse for all purposes, including commercial).

Yours faithfully,

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 all of this information and this is withheld. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

This information is available on our Open Barnet data portal using the following link:

<https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/businessratesregister> - **this shows occupied properties**

<https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/empty-commercial-properties> - **this shows unoccupied properties**

S21 - Material already published

Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you by other means.

The information relevant to your request is published online at the following link:

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.