

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale NW9 4EW
3 May 2023
Our ref: 9534624

Thank you for your request received on 31 March 2023, for the following information:

Dear Sir/Madam

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FoIA) REQUEST DATED 31 MARCH 2023

This FoIA request relates to the £150 energy bill support payments (sometimes called a 'council tax rebate') issued to Council Tax band A-D households in your area as at 1 April 2022. Further information is here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-council-tax-rebate-2022-23-billing-authority-guidance/support-for-energy-bills-the-council-tax-rebate-2022-23-billing-authority-guidance>

On 2 September 2022, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities reminded local authorities in England to place any unclaimed 'core' £150 payments onto council tax accounts for eligible households. This allowed for payment after the 'core' scheme closed. See the section titled 'Crediting council tax accounts' here:
https://web.archive.org/web/20221116231926/https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1102995/220902_Final_CT_Rebate_CTIL-_next_steps_for_Sept_2022_update.pdf

The questions below only relate to the 'core/main' £150 scheme. No information is required concerning the separate 'discretionary' schemes.

- 1) For properties where you are the local council, how many properties have an unclaimed 'core' £150 on their council tax account?**
- 2) How many of the properties in '1)' had at least one individual in council tax exemption class N as at 1 April 2022?**
- 3) For properties where you are the local council, how many are recorded as a Home in Multiple Occupation (HMO) for planning purposes but not for council tax purposes?**
- 4) How many of these properties in '3)' have an unclaimed 'core' £150 on their council tax account and had at least one individual in council tax exemption class N as at 1 April 2022?**
- 5) What decision(s) has the council made regarding distribution of these unclaimed 'core' £150 payments to the eligible 1 April 2022 occupants?**

Please provide this information above as at 31 March 2023 by return email.

If time allows, please also provide the above information as at 30 November 2022 (again by return email).

I look forward to hearing from you by the statutory deadline.

Kind regards

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.

1) For properties where you are the local council, how many properties have an unclaimed 'core' £150 on their council tax account?

30.11.2022: 0

31.03.2023: 0

All cases not paid via BACS or Post office voucher were offset to the residents Council tax accounts, all residents were issued a revised bill informing them of the payment.

2) How many of the properties in '1)' had at least one individual in council tax exemption class N as at 1 April 2022?

0

3) For properties where you are the local council, how many are recorded as a Home in Multiple Occupation (HMO) for planning purposes but not for council tax purposes?

30.11.2022: 962

31.03.2023: 981

4) How many of these properties in '3)' have an unclaimed 'core' £150 on their council tax account and had at least one individual in council tax exemption class N as at 1 April 2022?

0

5) What decision(s) has the council made regarding distribution of these unclaimed 'core' £150 payments to the eligible 1 April 2022 occupants?

All eligible households identified before 30 November deadline have been paid. The scheme closed on 30 November and no further payments can be made in respect of Energy Rebate, in accordance with government guidance. If backdated changes arise following new information being provided whereby residents are facing financial hardship, they are signposted to our Welfare Support team.

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.