

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue
Colindale
NW9 4EW
22 April 2024
Our ref: 11819972

Thank you for your request received on 25 March 2024, for the following information:

Dear Barnet Council,

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request detailed information concerning council tax, resident demographics, and the legal framework governing council tax within Barnet Borough. My goal is to understand not only the operational aspects of council tax but also the legislative foundation that guides its administration and enforcement.

****Resident and Council Tax Payer Information:****

- 1. Total number of residents and the number registered as council tax payers, according to the most recent data.**
- 2. Information on exemptions and discounts, including reasons and number of beneficiaries.**
- 3. Five-year comparison of resident and council tax payer numbers.**

****Council Tax Payment Dynamics:****

- 4. Available payment methods for council tax and the usage percentage of each method by residents.**
- 5. Statistics on timely payments vs. late payments, including instances of legal actions due to non-payment.**

****Support, Public Engagement, and Legislative Framework:****

- 6. Details on support programs or relief schemes for residents struggling to pay council tax, including uptake rates.**
- 7. A comprehensive outline of the legislation governing council tax in Barnet Borough, including any local bylaws or regulations specific to the borough.**

This request aims to provide a thorough understanding of how council tax impacts residents, how the council supports those unable to pay, and how legislative measures shape these processes.

Please provide this information in an electronic format. I anticipate your response within the statutory 20 working days as outlined in the Freedom of Information Act.

Caring for people, our places and the planet

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.

Please note that the Council Tax department does not hold details regarding the number of residents living in the borough, therefore I have provided the number of council tax payers and the number of properties.

1. Total number of residents and the number registered as council tax payers, according to the most recent data.

Council taxpayer accounts: 159,950

Number of properties in the Council Tax list: 159,475

2. Information on exemptions and discounts, including reasons and number of beneficiaries.

Exemption Type	Number of Exemptions
Unoccupied _ Owned by a Charity	55
Left Empty by Person(s) in Detention	7
Empty_Person in Hospital/Care Home	118
Unoccupied_Deceased	1045
Unoccupied_Deceased_Less Than 6 months since Probate	44
Empty_Occupation Prohibited by Law	8
Empty_Held for a Minister of Religion	5
Empty_Person Receiving care Elsewhere	4
Empty_Person Providing Care Elsewhere	6
Left Empty by a Student	1
Empty_Mortgagee in Possession	12
Student Halls of Residence	83
Occupied only by Students	1734
Armed Forces Accommodation	4
Occupied by Visiting Forces	1
Left Empty by Bankruptcy	1
Empty Caravan Pitch or Boat Mooring	1
Occupied By Persons Under 18 Years old	17
Empty Annexe to an Occupied Dwelling	8
Occupied by Severely Mentally Impaired Person	1239
Occupied by Foreign Diplomat	234
Occupied Granny Annexe	3
Grand Total	4,630

Discount Type	Number of Discounts
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Single persons Discount	43,740
Job Related Discount	1
Ukraine Refugee Discount	40
Disabled Relief (Property Band Reduction)	691
Grand Total	44,472

3. Five-year comparison of resident and council tax payer numbers.

Financial Year	Number of Properties	Number of Council Taxpayer Accounts
2019-20	153,814	153,988
2020-21	154,960	155,350
2021-22	156,671	157,150
2022-23	158,188	158,724
2023-24	159,815	159,950

4. Available payment methods for council tax and the usage percentage of each method by residents.

Payment Method	Total Live Accounts	%
11 MONTHLY DD ON 1ST MONTH	1,990	1.24%
11 MONTHLY DD ON 5TH MONTH	3,031	1.89%
11 MONTHLY DD ON 10TH MONTH	727	0.45%
11 MONTHLY DD ON 15TH MONTH	944	0.59%
11 MONTHLY DD ON 20TH MONTH	1,982	1.24%
11 MONTHLY DD ON 25TH MONTH	1,896	1.19%
12 MONTHLY DD 1ST MONTH	13,096	8.19%
12 MONTHLY DD 5TH MONTH	8,997	5.62%
12 MONTHLY DD 10TH MONTH	3,640	2.28%
12 MONTHLY DD 15TH MONTH	4,330	2.71%
12 MONTHLY DD 20TH MONTH	3,638	2.27%
12 MONTHLY DD 25TH MONTH	9,720	6.08%
10 MONTHLY DD 1ST MONTH	11,006	6.88%
10 MONTHLY DD 5TH MONTH	15,995	10.00%
10 MONTHLY DD 10TH MONTH	3,448	2.16%
10 MONTHLY DD 15TH MONTH	3,561	2.23%
10 MONTHLY DD 20TH MONTH	16,117	10.08%
10 MONTHLY DD 25TH MONTH	4,922	3.08%
ANNUAL DD 1ST MONTH	24	0.02%
ANNUAL DD 5TH MONTH	268	0.17%
ANNUAL DD 10TH MONTH	6	0.00%
ANNUAL DD 15TH MONTH	7	0.00%

ANNUAL DD 20TH MONTH	11	0.01%
ANNUAL DD 25TH MONTH	14	0.01%
HALF YEARLY DD 1ST	16	0.01%
HALF YEARLY DD 5TH	311	0.19%
HALF YEARLY DD 10TH	5	0.00%
HALF YEARLY DD 15TH	2	0.00%
HALF YEARLY DD 20TH	24	0.02%
HALF YEARLY DD 25TH	6	0.00%
10 MONTHLY DEMAND ONLY	282	0.18%
12 MONTHLY DEMAND ONLY	31	0.02%
ANNUAL DEMAND ONLY	1283	0.80%
HALF YEARLY DEMAND ONLY	710	0.44%
10 MONTHLY NON DD	42,460	26.55%
11 MONTHLY NON DD	110	0.07%
12 MONTHLY NON DD	4,260	2.66%
ANNUAL NON DD	383	0.24%
HALF YEARLY NON DD	274	0.17%
QUARTERLY NON DD	11	0.01%
London Borough of Barnet payment type only	381	0.24%
London Borough of Barnet service tenants payment type only	31	0.02%
Total	159,950	100%

5. Statistics on timely payments vs. late payments, including instances of legal actions due to non-payment.

Not Held

6. Details on support programs or relief schemes for residents struggling to pay council tax, including uptake rates.

[‘Money Worries?’ campaign](#)

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/benefits-grants-and-financial-advice/cost-living-support>

7. A comprehensive outline of the legislation governing council tax in Barnet Borough, including any local bylaws or regulations specific to the borough.

[Local Government Finance Act 1992 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

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.