

London Borough of Barnet  
2 Bristol Avenue,  
Colindale NW9 4EW  
3 May 2024  
Our ref: 11965109

Thank you for your request received on 16 April 2024, for the following information:

**1. Please provide us with a copy of the management information return you are required to provide to the DWP for tranche four of the Household Support Fund.**

**2. Please provide a breakdown of how tranche four was spent:**

**(a) Targeted Grants (by targeted grants we mean any direct grants/proactive support given to households that did not need to be applied)**

**(b) Free School Meal Holiday Vouchers**

**(c) Direct applications to the scheme (this means the amount that was open to application, but not through your local welfare assistance scheme)**

**(d) Local Welfare Assistance Scheme**

**(e) Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations**

**(f) Advice Services**

**(g) Other (please clarify)**

**3.**

**(a) If you accepted applications to this fund how many did you receive?**

**(b) How many applications were successful?**

**4. Excluding funding given to local welfare schemes or third-party organisations, how much of the HSF did you spend on helping people with furniture and appliances?**

**5. How much did you spend on:**

- (a) Vouchers**
- (b) Cash awards**
- (c) Third party organisations**
- (d) In kind furniture support**
- (e) In kind support for other purposes**
- (f) Other**

**6. How much do you plan to spend on free school meal vouchers in the holidays in 2024/25? If HSF is not renewed in September, will you continue with the vouchers for the second half of the year? And if so, how will you be funding it?**

**7. Did you take on additional staff for HSF 4 and if so are these staff likely to be retained for HSF 5?**

**8. To what extent does the short notice of the availability of funding inhibit the planning and delivery activity of HSF (e.g. internal finance and policy decision making, resource requirements, engagement with internal departments and external partners)?**

**9. When HSF 5 ends, what do you expect the impact to be on:**

- \* Resources**
- \* Local Welfare Provision scheme**
- \* External partner agencies**
- \* Communities**

## **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. Please provide us with a copy of the management information return you are required to provide to the DWP for tranche four of the Household Support Fund.**

Please find attached

**2. Please provide a breakdown of how tranche four was spent:**

**(a) Targeted Grants (by targeted grants we mean any direct grants/proactive support given to households that did not need to be applied)**

We do not hold the data in this was to answer this

**(b) Free School Meal Holiday Vouchers**

£558, 907.01

**(c) Direct applications to the scheme (this means the amount that was open to application, but not through your local welfare assistance scheme)**

£1,423,691.06

**(d) Local Welfare Assistance Scheme**

We do not hold the data in this was to answer this

**(e) Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations**

£89,000.00

**(f) Advice Services**

£28,000.00

**(g) Other (please clarify)**

£28,000.00

**3.**

**(a) If you accepted applications to this fund how many did you receive?**

4187

**(b) How many applications were successful?**

4044

**4. Excluding funding given to local welfare schemes or third-party organisations, how much of the HSF did you spend on helping people with furniture and appliances?**

Please see attached

**5. How much did you spend on:**

**(a) Vouchers**

**(b) Cash awards**

**(c) Third party organisations**

**(d) In kind furniture support**

**(e) In kind support for other purposes**

**(f) Other**

£4,754,091,53

**6. How much do you plan to spend on free school meal vouchers in the holidays in 2024/25? If HSF is not renewed in September, will you continue with the vouchers for the second half of the year? And if so, how will you be funding it?**

£1.64m is planned to be spent on food vouchers for children in schools or PVI settings between April 2024 and September 2024 (inclusive). The anticipated split is 89% on those in receipt of FSM, 11% for other families in financial vulnerability. Actual demand may vary

**7. Did you take on additional staff for HSF 4 and if so are these staff likely to be retained for HSF 5?**

Our voluntary sector delivery partners recruited additional staff to administrate the scheme. They were on temporary contracts and most left before the end of March due to not knowing whether funding would be extended.

**8. To what extent does the short notice of the availability of funding inhibit the planning and delivery activity of HSF (e.g. internal finance and policy decision making, resource requirements, engagement with internal departments and external partners)?**

For households with children, we have a robust system in place from the commencement of HSF so have been able to continue at each stage

For households with adults, the short notice has been challenging when working with external partners particularly around recruiting and retaining staff to deliver the scheme.

**9. When HSF 5 ends, what do you expect the impact to be on:**

- \* Resources
- \* Local Welfare Provision scheme
- \* External partner agencies
- \* Communities

Given we have seen numbers grow in each round we hypothesise there may be an increase in EH referrals and have begun conversations around contingency planning. We are also likely to see continued demand for support via Adult Social Care and our voluntary sector partners.

**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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.org.uk)). There is no charge for making an appeal.