

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue
Colindale
NW9 4EW
21 May 2024
Our ref: 12171504

Thank you for your request received on 15 May 2024, for the following information:

Dear Sir/Madam,

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to know:

- 1. Has your local authority employed debt collection agencies to collect unpaid council tax debts or business rates over the last five years?**
- 2. Has your local authority employed bailiffs to collect unpaid council tax debts or business rates over the last five years?**
- 3. Has your local authority applied for any bankruptcy petitions against people with unpaid council tax debts or business rates over the last five years? If so, how many?**
- 4. Has your local authority applied for any charging orders against people with unpaid council tax debts or business rates over the last five years? If so, how many?**
- 5. Has your local authority 'sold' any books of council tax or business rates debt over the last five years?**

If it looks as if the work involved in responding to this FOI is going to exceed the time permitted, please only answer points 1, 2, 3 and 4. If this is not possible, please only answer points 1, 2 and 3. If this is not possible, please only answer points 1 and 2. If this is not possible, please only answer point 1.

If it still looks as if the work involved in responding to this FOI is going to exceed the time permitted, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss how I can reduce the scope of this request.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

Caring for people, places and information
The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below

1. Has your local authority employed debt collection agencies to collect unpaid council tax debts or business rates over the last five years?

Council Tax: Yes
Business Rates: Yes

2. Has your local authority employed bailiffs to collect unpaid council tax debts or business rates over the last five years?

Council Tax: Yes
Business Rates: Yes

3. Has your local authority applied for any bankruptcy petitions against people with unpaid council tax debts or business rates over the last five years? If so, how many?

Council Tax: Yes - 10
Business Rates: No

4. Has your local authority applied for any charging orders against people with unpaid council tax debts or business rates over the last five years? If so, how many?

Council Tax: Yes - 30.
Business Rates: No

5. Has your local authority 'sold' any books of council tax or business rates debt over the last five years?

Council Tax: No
Business Rates: No

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.