

London Borough of Barnet  
2 Bristol Avenue,  
Colindale,  
London, NW9 4EW  
21 October 2024  
Our ref: 13152992

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

**I am writing to submit a Freedom of Information (FOI) request regarding pensioners and Winter Fuel Payments in the borough. I would like to request a **\*\*ward-by-ward breakdown\*\*** of the following:-**

- 1. The total number of pensioners residing in each ward as of the most recent data.**
  - 2. The number of pensioners eligible for Winter Fuel Payments in 2023, broken down by ward.**
  - 3. The estimated number of pensioners who are expected to lose their eligibility for Winter Fuel Payments in 2024, also broken down by ward.**
- I refer to the document published by Camden Council on October 14, 2024, available here: [Camden Council - Written Questions](#), as an example of how such data can be compiled and presented.

If possible, I would appreciate it if the information could be provided in a digital format such as Excel or CSV. If any part of my request requires clarification or would benefit from refinement, please let me know, and I will be happy to assist.

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

## **Response**

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds some of the information you requested.

However, we believe that the exemptions detailed below apply to some/all of this information and this is withheld. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

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## **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:

1. The total number of pensioners residing in each ward as of the most recent data.

This is publicly available information either directly from the ONS here: [Ward-level population estimates \(official statistics in development\) - Office for National Statistics](#)

or using our [Barnet's Population Tool](#). The latest available data is from mid-2022.

### **1. The number of pensioners eligible for Winter Fuel Payments in 2023, broken down by ward.**

We do not have any information related to the eligibility. However, the DWP does provide data on the current number of pensioners already in receipt of Pension Credit. Available here: [https://stat-explore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/opendatabase?id=PC\\_New](https://stat-explore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/opendatabase?id=PC_New). The latest available data is from Feb 2024.

### **2. The estimated number of pensioners who are expected to lose their eligibility for Winter Fuel Payments in 2024, also broken down by ward.**

Based on the Camden example this would be the total pensioner population estimate minus the current number of pension credit recipients. However, I would caution following Camden's example. If they have used the same data we have access to from the DWP then it is likely that the number of pension credit claimants has increased since Feb-24 and this won't be representative of the current position.

## **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.