

London Borough of Barnet  
2 Bristol Avenue  
Colindale  
NW9 4EW  
19 December 2024  
Our ref: 13494952

Thank you for your request received on 30 November 2024, for the following information:

**Dear Barnet Borough Council,**

**I appreciate that not everyone pays council tax when due nor at all.**

**In the financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24:**

- How many applications did you make to any court to assist in the recovery of unpaid tax?**
- How many of those were successful, in that a distress warrant was issued or similar outcome in your favour?**
- How many resulted in collection in full?**
- What were your costs incurred (not the same as those granted by the courts) to take this action. Please provide a breakdown of those costs in line with the schedules I assume you presented to courts if/when requesting costs from the defaulter.**
- What proportion of your costs were recovered?**

**Please respond using either plain text in a Microsoft Word(r) or an Adobe(r) pdf document. As advised by the Information Commissioner I reserve the right to request a second response in the event that your reply proves inaccessible using standard proprietary software tools available to me.**

**I remind you of the statutory timescales for response**

**Yours faithfully,**

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

### ***In the financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24:***

***- How many applications did you make to any court to assist in the recovery of unpaid tax?***

2022-23: 31,093

2023-24: 23,730

***- How many of those were successful, in that a distress warrant was issued or similar outcome in your favour?***

Not held.

***- How many resulted in collection in full?***

Not held.

***- What were your costs incurred (not the same as those granted by the courts) to take this action. Please provide a breakdown of those costs in line with the schedules I assume you presented to courts if/when requesting costs from the defaulter.***

See attached.

***- What proportion of your costs were recovered?***

As at 31st March in each financial year:

2022-23: 61%

2023-24: 62%

## 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.