

24 May 2016
Our ref: 2736797

Thank you for your request received on 5 May 2016, for the following information:

Overall expenditure of Barnet Borough Council, for each fiscal year, from 2005-6 to 2015-16.

To clarify, I am looking for the total amount spent by Barnet Borough Council each year, inclusive of outsourced services and all other council provided services.

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

Response

We consider that the absolute exemption set out in section 21 (information accessible by other means) applies to the information requested because the information requested is already reasonably accessible elsewhere, in this case, on the council's website.

The overall expenditure for Barnet Council can be found in the below Statement of Accounts, under the title Net Expenditure.

Please see the link below for Statement of Accounts from 2011 to 2012:

https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CDoQFjAA&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.barnet.gov.uk%2Fdam%2Fjcr%3Ab3410c1b-a2bb-4c3c-b359-9634e3ca14a2%2FPublished_audited_Statement_of_Accounts_2011_12.pdf&ei=N7ljVabWA9jtaN2_gZgO&usg=AFQjCNESvalEJgqo3d7ORjxXwUtCc0wOww&sig2=2pHExti5CY2rZjQKsLhhhw&bvm=bv.89947451,d.d2s&cad=rja

Please see link below for Statement of Accounts from 2012/13 to 2014/15.

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/council-and-democracy/finance-and-funding/financial-statements-budgets-and-variance-reports/statement-of-accounts.html>

Please note that all the other Statements of Accounts that fall within your request are attached with the exception of 2015 to 2016. Please note that the Statement of Accounts for 2015 to 2016 are not ready, this is expected to be published in the next few months.

We consider that the qualified exemption set out in Section 22 (Information intended

for future publication) subsection 1 applies to the information requested. Therefore, we have decided to withhold the information.

In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the interest in favour of disclosure.

Factors in favour of disclosure

None.

Factors in favour of withholding

In line with accepted practices, the council routinely publishes its end of financial year Statement of Accounts on its website. This practice is sensible and fair to all concerned including both the council and the general public.

In all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds, we recommend that you take a look at Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This is an important tool in pushing forward Barnet's Transparency Agenda, bringing together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access:

<http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

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 FOI Officer at: The London Borough of Barnet, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London, N11 1NP (email xxx@xxxxxx.xxx.x).

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.