



I can help FOI 6713
Enquiries to: Information Requests
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Requester,

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

Please prioritise answering questions in relation to the mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant and other expenditure under your Housing Assistance Policy, including discretionary spending on adaptations. We have also included a request for supplementary data from the Housing Revenue Account. Please contact me if any further clarification is required. We would also welcome advice about how the FOI request could be refined to attain the remaining information. If possible, please provide answers in a spreadsheet. To avoid exceeding the cost limit, please provide aggregated data rather than individual case files.

--- Scope of questions Unless explicitly specified, for the following questions, please include data from mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant and other expenditure and figures under your Housing Assistance Policy, including discretionary spending on adaptations. If possible, please also include Housing Revenue Account data for adaptations to your own properties as separate figures for each of the following questions. Terminology We have used the term 'potential recipient' to refer to the disabled occupant who will benefit from the adaptation. This is because a landlord may apply for an adaptation on behalf of a disabled occupant and the landlord may consequently be considered the 'applicant'. We have asked questions about whether potential recipients have a terminal illness. Some schemes refer to people receiving 'palliative care'. For the purpose of these questions, please use these terms interchangeably.

Adaptations approval and delivery time

1) What is the total number of applications for adaptations

A) received by the local authority and B) how many of these applications were accepted by the local authority during the following periods?

i) 01 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 ii) 01 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

2) What was the average time taken (in working days) from first contact about an adaptation to that adaptation being approved for A) adaptations up to £1,000 B) adaptations between £1,001 and £15,000 and C) adaptations over £15,001 during the following periods? i) 01 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 ii) 01 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

3) What was the average time taken (in working days) from the approval of A) adaptations up to £1,000 B) adaptations between £1,001 and £15,000 and C)

adaptations over £15,001 to the completion of the adaptation during the period during the following periods? i) 01 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 ii) 01 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 Adaptations for urgent needs

4) Do you record whether potential recipients of adaptations have a terminal illness? a) If yes, what are the eligibility criteria to being classed as terminally ill?

5) If you do record whether potential recipients of adaptations have a terminal illness, what is the total number of applications A) received from or on behalf of potential recipients with a terminal illness and B) how many of these applications were accepted by the local authority during the following periods? i) 01 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 ii) 01 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

6) Do you currently have a fast-track process in place to provide adaptations funding more rapidly to potential recipients with urgent needs? a) Is terminal illness a qualifying criterion for access to the fast-track process?

7) What was the average time taken (in working days) from first contact about an adaptation to that adaptation being approved of A) adaptations up to £1,000 B) between £1,001 and £15,000 and C) adaptations over £15,001 for applications under the fast-track route during the following periods? i) 01 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 ii) 01 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

8) What was the average time taken (in working days) from the approval of A) adaptations up to £1,000 B) adaptations between £1,001 and £15,000 and C) adaptations above £15,001 to the completion of the adaptation for applications under the fast-track route during the period during the following periods? i) 01 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 ii) 01 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

9) How many adaptations applications were not completed because the potential recipient died following first contact about an adaptation and prior to the adaptation being completed during the following periods? i) 01 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 ii) 01 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 Means testing for people with a terminal illness

10) Does the local authority waive means-testing for potential recipients of adaptations with a terminal illness? a) If yes, is this solely for potential recipients with a terminal illness or is it open more broadly? b) If yes, up to what amount do you waive the means-test? c) If yes, is it only waived to allow for certain types of adaptations? Relocation Grant

11) Does your local authority offer a Relocation Grant or similar support? These are grants typically offered to help with moving costs offered by some local authorities as an alternative to adaptations where it is more cost effective or

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beneficial to offer a relocation than adapting a property. a) If yes, to what value is the Relocation Grant available? b) If yes, is the grant subject to a means test? To what value? c) If yes, to which tenure types is the Relocation Grant available? d) If no, has the local authority conducted any assessments (including an Impact Equality Assessment) or reviews on the benefits of offering a Relocation Grant?

12) If yes, how many Relocation Grants were issued during the following periods?
i) 01 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 ii) 01 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

13) Do you have a different application and/or delivery process for the Relocation Grant if a potential recipient has a terminal illness? If yes, how is the application and/or delivery process different?

Question 1

Financial year	Received	Accepted
2024/25	546	299
2025/26	478	242

Question 2. Average working days: contact to approval

Financial year	Cost band	Average working days
2024/25	Up to £1,000	126.8
2024/25	£1,001–£15,000	30.7
2024/25	Over £15,000	159.8
2025/26	Up to £1,000	11.7
2025/26	£1,001–£15,000	23.3
2025/26	Over £15,000	131.5

Question 3. Average working days: approval to completion

Financial year	Cost band	Average working days
2024/25	Up to £1,000	49.3
2024/25	£1,001–£15,000	55.6
2024/25	Over £15,000	155.5
2025/26	Up to £1,000	37.7
2025/26	£1,001–£15,000	47.9
2025/26	Over £15,000	190.5

4. Terminal illness and urgent needs

Question	Answer
4	No dedicated terminal-illness field is used and the published DFG policy does not define terminal illness or an eligibility test for recording it.

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5	Not reportable as terminal illness is not recorded in a structured field, so received and accepted applications cannot be counted.
6	Yes. The policy provides a Fast Track process. Terminal illness is not stated as a standalone qualifying criterion; Priority A covers serious and imminent health/safety risk or rapidly deteriorating progressive illness, while Fast Track eligibility is based on qualifying adaptation and need.

7. Fast Track: first contact to approval

Financial year	Cost band	Average working days
2024/25	Up to £1,000	39.5
2024/25	£1,001–£15,000	20.5
2024/25	Over £15,000	62.1
2025/26	Up to £1,000	3.0
2025/26	£1,001–£15,000	14.9
2025/26	Over £15,000	29.6

7.2. Fast Track: approval to completion

Financial year	Cost band	Average working days
2024/25	Up to £1,000	37.0
2024/25	£1,001–£15,000	52.0
2024/25	Over £15,000	122.9
2025/26	Up to £1,000	Not available
2025/26	£1,001–£15,000	40.9
2025/26	Over £15,000	48.4

8. Applications not completed because the applicant died

Financial year	Applicant deceased
2024/25	16
2025/26	17

Question	Answer
9	No terminal-illness-specific waiver in place. Means testing is waived for children and qualifying Fast Track adaptations. Fast Track contributions are waived unless the applicant fully contributes to their care package after a prior means test, or has savings at or above the social-care threshold. The waiver is broader than terminal illness and applies to qualifying Fast Track adaptations; no separate monetary cap is stated.

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10	Yes. Barnsley provides a "Help to Move Home" relocation grant/support route where the assessed home cannot reasonably be adapted and moving is the more appropriate solution. The published council information confirms advice and help to find and move to another property. The indexed public wording available for this review does not expose the scheme's maximum award, detailed means-test threshold or full tenure rules, so those sub-parts should be answered from the controlled Help to Move Home policy clause rather than inferred from payment values.
10.1	Relocation grants issued, 1 during 1 April 2024–31 March 2025 and 2 during 1 April 2025–31 March 2026.
10.2	No separate Help to Move Home application or delivery process specifically for people with a terminal illness. Urgent cases may still be prioritised through the wider Priority A / Fast Track arrangements.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Information Requests Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

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Email: <http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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