



My Ref: FOI 6037
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: -

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act to kindly request information relating to your Local Welfare Assistance Scheme. I am the Research and Policy Officer at End Furniture Poverty, we are the campaigning and research arm of FRC Group, a group of charities and non-profit businesses. Please see our list of questions attached, and pasted below, and thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions for us about this, please do get in touch. We require information from the period 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026.

1. What was the total spend on your scheme in 2025/26?

£346,592.29

2. How many applications did you receive to this scheme in 2025/26?

824

3. How many applications were successful in 2025/26?

321

4. What percentage of your entire scheme (including food, fuel and furniture support) was delivered via:

- Cash
- Vouchers
- In-kind provision of goods

100% was spent on the provision of goods

5. How much was spent on the provision of furniture, white goods and furnishings (including flooring and window coverings) in 2025/26?

This includes cash, vouchers and the provision of the item itself.

(a) What percentage of your furniture and appliance spend only was:

- Cash
- Vouchers
- Provision of the item itself

100% was spent on the provision of goods

(b) Please tick (or otherwise indicate) which furniture/appliance types you provide and tell us whether these are new or preloved: Cash Voucher Item - New Item - Preloved/second hand Cooker Fridge Freezer Fridge Freezer Washing Machine

Sofa Bed Wardrobe Chest of drawers Table and chairs Flooring – carpets or lino Window coverings – curtains or blinds

New items – bed, mattress, bunk bed, washer, cooker, fridge, fridge freezer, freezer and microwave

6. (a) What percentage of your 2025/26 spend was funded by your core spending power (as opposed to additional Govt. funding provided via Section 31 grants, such as the Household Support Fund)

None – 100% funded by the household support fund

(b) What percentage of your 2025/26 spend came from the Household Support Fund?

100% funded from the household support fund

(c) What other sources did you use to fund your LWA scheme in 2025/26 and what percentage of the scheme did each source make up respectively?

None

7. Are you maintaining your LWA scheme in 2026/27?

Yes

8. What is your budget for 2026/27?

Yet to be approved by Cabinet

9. What percentage of your 2026/27 budget is funded by your core spending power? If this budget is not 100% core funded, how is the remaining budget funded?

None – will be funded through the Crisis Resilience Fund

10. If you have closed your LWA scheme is the offer of the local welfare scheme fully reflected in your CRF offer. How did you justify this to your elected members
N/A

11. Would you support a statutory duty on local welfare support? If yes, are there any caveats? If no, can you explain what you believe the barriers are? If you have any further comments about LWA support or the Household Support Fund, please share it here. I would like my comments to remain anonymous: Yes/No

Regarding our Resettlement Scheme (Local Welfare Assistance), we do not support introducing a statutory duty in this area. Local authorities possess the insight and understanding necessary to develop welfare schemes that truly reflect the unique needs of their residents. For this reason, we believe welfare support is most effective when it remains a discretionary function managed by local authorities. This approach, supported by the Crisis and Resilience Fund, allows schemes to be thoughtfully designed and adapted, ensuring they genuinely address the challenges and priorities within each community.

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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

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

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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