



My Ref: FOI/ 5415
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: -

Over recent years the government has been operating a program of managed migration which is seeing people being invited to migrate to Universal Credit (UC) or their current benefits will be terminated. The government has accelerated this process and according to the House of Commons library all income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimants will receive their migration notices by Autumn 2025 and be moved by April 2026.

Reading comments on forums and groups some disabled people who have completed their move to UC from ESA are saying their council tax bills and/or social care charges have changed as a result, with most saying they have increased.

As a billing authority you will have been notified by the Department for Work and Pensions when an ESA claimant is migrated to UC. As a result you will have recalculated their council tax and any reduction they were getting. Therefore, I request the following information about this group:

How many ESA to UC claimants have you been notified about?
How many have seen their council tax bill increase? 96
How many have remained the same? 1659
How many have decreased? 7

While not every claimant who migrated from ESA to UC will be getting social care, some will. Therefore please share the following information.

How many ESA to UC claimants are getting social care?
How many have seen their social care charges increase?
How many have remained the same?
How many have decreased?

After considering your request I have decided to refuse it under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. This is because it is estimated that the time taken to provide the information would exceed the appropriate limit of £450, equivalent to 18 hours of staff time.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act is a provision which allows a public authority to refuse to comply with the request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed a set limit known as the appropriate limit.

There are over 14,000 claimants of UC known to the authority. Given the information is not recorded we would have to review each claim individually and then determine whether they are getting social care before reviewing the other information requirements. It is estimated that it would take 10 minutes per record of which there are 14000 and this would equate to over 2300 hours of staff time.

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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