



My Ref: FOI 6261
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: -

1. The information requested

In our request, we refer to:

- **Direct payments: specifically, money paid to clients aged 18 years and over so that they can arrange their own care and support.**
- **Personal assistants: provide people with personal, domestic, and social support to help them live independently.**
- **Homecare: social care and support services delivered in people's own homes (also known as 'domiciliary care' or 'care at home').**

In case of doubt, you should apply a reasonable and practical interpretation to the request. If you do not hold the information in the exact form requested, please provide the nearest available information you hold and explain the basis on which it is recorded.

The information requested is:

- (a) The total number of adult social care clients aged 18 years and over in receipt of a direct payment as of: (i) 1 April 2024, (ii) 1 April 2025 and (iii) 1 April 2026 (or the nearest dates for which data is held).**

Please see the table below:

Year:	No. of Direct payments
1 April 2024	596
1 April 2025	660
1 April 2026	682

These figures include individuals who access a direct payment to pay their appointeeships. As some service users use their direct payment to pay both an appointeeship provider and their agency/PA we don't have the data to accurately remove appointeeship only cases from these figures.

- (b) The percentage of adult social care clients aged 18 years and over in receipt of a direct payment as of: (i) 1 April 2024, (ii) 1 April 2025 and (iii) 1**

April 2026 (or the nearest dates for which data is held). Please also state the denominator used for each percentage calculation (i.e. the total number of all adult social care clients aged 18 years and over for each date). Please note that, for each date, we are seeking the percentage out of all adult social care clients receiving a community-based (i.e. non-residential) service.

Please see the table below:

Year:	% of Direct payments	Total no. of service users (all budgets)
1 April 2024	34%	1,747
1 April 2025	34%	1939
1 April 2026	35%	1966

(c) Please provide details of any strategy or target you have to increase direct payment uptake among adult social care clients over the next few years.

We do not have a strategy or target to increase direct payment uptake.

Questions (d)-(e) consider how direct payments are used.

(d) The total number of clients aged 18 years and over currently in receipt of a direct payment to buy homecare services through an agency.

Direct payment accounts are currently being used to support 91 service users to access homecare services through an agency.

(e) The total number of clients aged 18 years and over currently in receipt of a direct payment to employ or engage a personal assistant.

Direct payment accounts are currently being used to support 164 service users to access one or more personal assistants for their support package.

Questions (f)-(i) relate to personal assistants.

(f) The total number of personal assistants currently recorded by your council as supporting adults aged 18 years and over through a direct payment arrangement. (This information might be held in a register, approved list, payroll/support service, direct payment monitoring process, or other council-held record.)

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We hold a register of personal assistants and ensure that their DBS is renewed every three years. We currently have 655 personal assistants on this register. We cannot confirm if all of these individuals are currently active as personal assistants as this information is updated at the point of review.

- (g) The total number of those personal assistants in answer to question (f) recorded by your council as having an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check where this information is held.**

All personal assistants are DBS checked at the enhanced level.

- (h) The total number of those personal assistants in answer to question (f) recorded by your council as self-employed.**

We have 20 personal assistants recorded as being self-employed.

- (i) Where a direct payment recipient wishes to engage a personal assistant on a self-employed basis, what evidence, checks or guidance does your council require or use before agreeing that the arrangement may be treated as self-employed rather than employed?**

We ask that all self-employed personal assistants have public liability insurance and request evidence of that and their UTR number.

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: -

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PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

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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