



My Ref: FOI 6131
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 would like to request information held by the council relating to “Exempt Accommodation” (EA). Unless specified otherwise, please provide the following information for each financial year from 2018/19 to 2025/26 inclusive, or for the latest date for which data is available.

1. Total Housing Benefit expenditure For each financial year, please provide the total amount of Housing Benefit expenditure (sometimes referred to as “enhanced housing benefit”) paid in respect of all claims that meet the definition of Exempt Accommodation under Housing Benefit regulations.

The data is available only from 2020 onwards, and there is no reliable means of separating expenditure relating specifically to exempt accommodation. The best available estimate is therefore based on the Single Housing Benefit Extract submitted to the Department for Work and Pensions each month, which records the weekly amount of exempt accommodation benefit in payment for live claims. To estimate annual expenditure, the weekly figure has been multiplied by 52, reflecting the number of weeks for which rent is charged. Please see the table below.

Year	Weekly Estimate	Annual Estimate
20/21	£84,501	£4,394,052
21/22	£91,775	£4,772,300
22/23	£100,269	£5,213,988
23/24	£118,202	£6,149,988
24/25	£149,585	£7,778,420
25/26	£179.432	£9,330,464

2. Number of successful claims.

Please provide the number of successful Housing Benefit claims relating to residents living in Exempt Accommodation.

We are unable to provide historic data on successful claims. At present, there are 626 successful Housing Benefit claims in payment relating to residents living in supported accommodation.

3. Number of exempt accommodation properties.

Please provide the total number of properties being used as Exempt Accommodation within the council's area.

Please see attached table.

4. Breakdown of provider types For the properties identified in Question 3, please provide a breakdown by provider type, including:

- a) Number of Registered Providers / Housing Associations (registered with the Regulator of Social Housing)
- b) Number of registered charities only
- c) Number of Community Interest Companies (CICs)
- d) Number of Private Limited Companies
- e) Number owned by the council
- f) Number classified as other provider types (please specify the type)

Please see attached table.

5. Providers of Exempt Accommodation

Please provide a list of all organisations or individuals operating or registered as providers of Exempt Accommodation within the council's area as of the date of this request.

Please see attached table.

6. Weekly Housing Benefit Amounts Regarding the weekly Housing Benefit paid per resident in Exempt Accommodation, please provide for each financial year:

- a) Highest weekly amount paid
- b) Average weekly amount paid
- c) Lowest weekly amount paid

Please see the table below which details the highest, average and the lowest weekly Housing Benefit paid per resident in Except Accommodation,:

	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26
Highest	£448.04	£448.04	£485.64	£527.73	£591.71	£636.71
Average	£200.71	£203.49	£229.44	£254.23	£271.47	£287.55
Lowest	£46.75	£58.08	£58.08	£47.40	£80.77	£40.96

7. Average length of stay

Please provide the average length of stay for residents living in Exempt Accommodation.

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To provide the average length of stay for residents in Exempt Accommodation, we would be required to manually review all Housing Benefit claims, cancellations and related records in order to identify the relevant cases. We are therefore unable to provide this information.

8. Assessment of new providers

Please provide details of the council's current process for assessing new providers of Exempt Supported Accommodation before Housing Benefit payments are approved.

Where a new provider makes direct contact with the Housing Benefit team, we arrange a meeting and request the information necessary to support the application.

We work closely with the Commissioning Team and the Housing Options Team, both of which are often already aware of new providers or may have had previous contact with them. Relevant services may also meet with the provider to discuss the need for the application, and we are often involved from the earliest stage.

Assessment of rent levels is undertaken at a later stage, when eligible rent and service charge amounts are reviewed and approved.

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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