

Executive - 10th February 2021

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. From Dermot Mckibbin to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

Who is eligible for both elements of the test and trace support payments, please show the number of applications the Council has received for both elements of support payments the Council has received, what percentage of claims have been successful, summarise the reasons for any rejections, and supply the Bromley figures on a ward level and by postcode?

Response:

Because of the format of the questions and answers, tables providing the answers have been distributed.

What I have sent is the link to the Government Scheme -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme-claiming-financial-support/claiming-financial-support-under-the-test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme>

There is also a listing there of all of the wards, the paid, refused and the percentage paid. There is a figure for "other" – this relates to people who do not reside in the borough. The Test, Trace and Support payments applications received by postcode is also give there (see below).

Supplementary Question:

In view of the fact that only 22% of test and trace support applications have been successful, does the Council think that these schemes are effective in supporting people who think they may have coronavirus, and will they make representations to the Government to review such payments?

Reply:

It is important to recognise that only 22% of applications had been successful and the unsuccessful applicants did not meet the eligibility criteria for the national scheme. The Council supports the need to provide financial assistance to residents during this difficult pandemic period but we need to have adequate funding from Government to provide such support. We will continue to make representations to Government to ensure that we can obtain funding support to assist our residents as well as the business community. We do also recognise the need to strike the right balance as any funding provided will increase the national debt and will have to be repaid by taxpayers at a later stage.

Test and Trace Support payment applications received by Ward:

Ward	Paid	Refused	Total	% Paid
Bickley	2	41	43	4.65%
Biggin Hill	11	53	64	17.19%
Bromley Common and Keston	13	57	70	18.57%
Bromley Town	30	89	119	25.21%
Chelsfield and Pratts Bottom	13	41	54	24.07%
Chislehurst	15	51	66	22.73%
Clock House	12	70	82	14.63%
Copers Cope	20	56	76	26.32%
Cray Valley East	39	103	142	27.46%
Cray Valley West	30	129	159	18.87%
Crystal Palace	28	62	90	31.11%
Darwin	6	16	22	27.27%
Farnborough and Crofton	13	53	66	19.70%
Hayes and Coney Hall	15	79	94	15.96%
Kelsey and Eden Park	14	46	60	23.33%
Mottingham and Chislehurst North	25	77	102	24.51%
Orpington	25	74	99	25.25%
Penge and Cator	30	83	113	26.55%
Petts Wood and Knoll	9	34	43	20.93%
Plaistow And Sundridge	21	75	96	21.88%
Shortlands	8	26	34	23.53%
West Wickham	19	54	73	26.02%
Other	0	24	24	0%
Total	398	1393	1791	22.22%

Note: Other relates to applications received from people who do not reside in the Bromley borough and therefore not eligible for a payment from Bromley.

Test and Trace Support payment applications received by Post code

Postcode	Paid	Refused	Total	% paid
BR1	45	179	224	20.09%
BR2	39	182	221	17.65%
BR3	40	157	197	20.30%
BR4	23	74	97	23.71%
BR5	88	296	384	22.92%
BR6	47	150	197	23.86%
BR7	12	50	62	19.35%
CR4	0	1	1	0.00%
DA14	0	1	1	0.00%
KT17	0	1	1	0.00%
SE12	0	1	1	0.00%
SE19	7	17	24	29.17%
SE20	51	132	183	27.87%
SE26	8	19	27	29.63%
SE8	0	1	1	0.00%
SE9	25	69	94	26.60%
SW17	0	1	1	0.00%
TN14	0	3	3	0.00%
TN16	13	59	72	18.06%
Total	398	1393	1791	22.22%

2. From Dermot Mckibbin to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

The Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) holds this information – we don't. (Information can be found at - <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/login.xhtml>)

The number of households in receipt of housing benefit and council tax support were -

	1 January 2020	1 January 2021
Housing Benefit	13,543	12,105
Council Tax Support	14,368	15,267

Supplementary Question:

Would it be possible for the Council to have a committee report that looks at the social and economic consequences of the pandemic for businesses and individuals in the borough in order to try to highlight the effect that the pandemic is having and what effect is available for individuals and businesses in the borough?

Reply:

There will be a future report to the Executive on the social and economic consequences of this terrible pandemic which will include consideration on any further support as the pandemic ends to assist local businesses and our residents. We have plans to provide more housing, support the vulnerable and work hard to assist in the recovery of the local economy which helps generate employment and improve the health and wellbeing in the borough. We have to also consider the funding challenges and cost pressures that the 'new normal' creates in moving forward.