

Freedom of Information Request No. 5227

Received 25/4/2019

Responded 10/5/2019

Request/Response

1) How many households were in Council Tax arrears each year?

2013/14 - 5654

2014/15 - 5258

2015/16 - 5047

2016/17 - 5612

2017/18 - 4927

2018/19 - 4962

*This is based on how many household were issued with a Final Notice during that financial year.

2) How many households in Council Tax arrears became subject to a liability order?

2013/14 - 2215

2014/15 - 2080

2015/16 - 1876

2016/17 - 2355

2017/18 - 2167

2018/19 - 1713

3) How many cases of council tax arrears were referred to bailiffs?

2013/14 - 1580

2014/15 - 1643

2015/16 - 1426

2016/17 - 1747

2017/18 - 2046

2018/19 - 1761

*These are now known as Enforcement Agents

3b) What was the value of the council tax arrears referred to bailiffs?

2013/14 – £1,205,527.41

2014/15 - £1,262,043.37

2015/16 - £1,111,202.72

2016/17 - £1,218,897.61

2017/18 - £1,488,547.55

2018/19 - £1,361,415.67

3c) What was the value of the arrears recovered?

2013/14 - £596,459.65

2014/15 - £620,756.17

2015/16 - £563,818.47

2016/17 - £633,830.05

2017/18 - £622,482.40

2018/19 - £478,080.40

The amounts stated relate to the cases from the totals in 3a) and 3b). Unfortunately it's not possible to isolate the recovered amounts in a given year. E.g. if a case was referred to an Enforcement Agent on 25.05.2015, the recovered amount will be included in 2015/16, regardless of when the payments were actually received.

3d) What were the costs of the bailiff action (including costs faced by households and costs faced by the council)?

Costs to the Council are zero – they are charged directly to the customer, and we do not have this information.

Costs charged by Enforcement Agents (nb- not necessarily all recovered, these are the charged totals)

2013/14 - £129,840.80

2014/15 - £215,735.03

2015/16 - £214,649.79

2016/17 - £218,875.32

2017/18 - £276,258.96

2018/19 - £251,803.31

4) How many cases of council tax arrears had repayment plans arranged?

Note – these are payment arrangements with the Council, NOT with Enforcement Agents.

2013/14 - 3982

2014/15 - 3643

2015/16 - 3462

2016/17 - 4528

2017/18 - 3896

2018/19 - 4006

5) How many cases of council tax arrears had third party deductions applied?

2013/14 - 383

2014/15 - 335

2015/16 - 320

2016/17 - 276

2017/18 - 328

2018/19 - 291

We have assumed that as Attachment of Earnings are covered below, this is referring to Attachment of Benefits, or Deductions from Benefits.

6) How many cases of council tax arrears had attachment of earnings orders applied?

2013/14 - 81

2014/15 - 74

2015/16 - 87

2016/17 - 63

2017/18 - 76

2018/19 - 93