

## Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002900  
Date 24 October 2018

### ***Bailiffs and bankruptcy***

#### **Request:**

I write to make a freedom of information request concerning council tax.

1. Please supply a copy of your council's procedure for dealing with unpaid council tax, including a timeline of when bailiffs are involved and bankruptcy charges filed?

The councils collection and debt strategy can be found at:

<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=13911&p=0>. Use of Enforcement Agents will be in accordance with The Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992. In accordance with the collection and debt strategy, bankruptcy proceedings will be considered on an individual basis.

2. For each of the past five financial years and the year to date to 15.10.2018, please provide:

The number of individuals owing outstanding council tax in the following categories of arrears: £0-5k, £5k-10k, £10-15k, etc in 5k intervals up to £50k+? Historically, we have not captured and stored on an individual level, the amount of Council Tax outstanding at the end of each billing year until the end of the 2017/2018 financial year. Therefore, we can provide the number of Council Tax Accounts that have a debt outstanding which relate to the years 2013 to 2017 as of the 31 March 2018. All individual debts for each year are less than £5,000. Please note an individual may have had one or more accounts in a given billing period due to change of address.

Billing Year	No. of Accounts with an Outstanding Debt between £0-5,000
2013	2,736
2014	4,513
2015	7,716
2016	11,664
2017	20,970

3. Please state:
- Total spend on bailiff recovery services? **There are no costs incurred by the council in respect of enforcement agent services for the recovery of council tax**
  - Total recovered council tax by bailiff providers

in each of the last five financial years, and the current financial year to 15.10.18

1 <sup>st</sup> April 2013 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2014 -	£1.094million
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 -	£1.365million
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2016 -	£1.261million
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2016 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017 -	£0.977million
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2017 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2018 -	£1.707million
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2018 – 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2018 -	£1.108million

4. Please provide a list of all bailiff companies used by your council during the period specified above? **Bristow & Sutor & Rundles.**
5. Please state:
- the number of individuals your council has brought bankruptcy charges against in each of the last five financial years, and the current financial year to 15.10.18? **No bankruptcy orders have been obtained during this period.**
  - Please state how many of these bankruptcy charges that were successful? **n/a**
  - Please provide a list of all administration companies used by your council for the specified period? **n/a**
  - Please state the total spend by your council on administration companies for the specified period? **n/a**
  - Please state the total cost recovered following a successful bankruptcy charge? **n/a**