

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 000336  
Date            2 August 2016

### ***Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme***

#### **Request:**

I would like to know (in order of priority):

1. The total number of:

- reminders issued;
- final notices issued;
- court summonses issued;
- liability orders issued;
- attachment of benefit arrangements made;
- attachment of earnings arrangements made; and
- enforcement agents employed;

in relation to your collection of council tax for each financial year since (and including) 2012/13

The following table provides the information for this request. Please note that we have interpreted your final request to mean the number of enforcement agencies engaged by the council in the recovery of council tax debt.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Reminders issued	50,225	57,531	65,181	68,110	36,068
Final notices issued	5,533	2,693	2,753	3,408	251
Court summonses issued	15,132	21,825	28,708	23,683	11,660
Liability orders issued	13,399	20559	23401	19,200	9487
Attachment of benefit arrangements made	2344	5432	6481	4525	1024
Attachment of earnings arrangements made	2311	2549	3284	2535	741
Enforcement agents employed	4	4	2	2	2

2. If possible please provide the council tax collection rate, among LCTRS recipients only, for each financial year since 2012/13. Please present this collection rate as a percentage of the total council tax liability for LCTRS recipients. If possible please also provide the council tax collection rate, among Council Tax Benefit (CTB) recipients only, for 2012/13.

The following table provides information relating to the years 2013 to 2016. Please note that our council tax reduction scheme was different for each of the three years below and as such other factors will need to be taken into account when using this data.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Collection Rate %</b>
2013/14	94.62%
2014/15	91.24%
2015/16	80.10%

In respect of information relating to the year 2012/13, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold this information. Consequently, we are unable to provide information relating to this time period, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Act, that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".

3. If possible please provide the average council tax bill for someone on the full council tax reduction available under LCTRS (or CTB ) for each financial year since and including 2012/13.

With reference to question 3 above, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold information. Consequently, we are unable to provide information and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Act, that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".

However, we can provide information from 2013 onwards about the average bill for all people in receipt of council tax reduction. Please note that our council tax reduction scheme was different for each of the three years below and we have therefore shown the average bill for each claimant group within our scheme.

## **2013/14**

### **Scheme**

Household includes children under 5 (entitled to 91.5% Council Tax Reduction from 1 April 2013)

Pensioners (entitled to 100% Council Tax Reduction)

Vulnerable – entitled to high rate DLA/PIP (entitled to 91.5% Council Tax Reduction from 1 April 2013)

Working age employed (entitled to 91.5% Council Tax Reduction from 1 April 2013)

Working age not employed (entitled to 91.5% Council Tax Reduction from 1 April 2013)

## **2014/15**

### **Scheme**

Household includes children under 5 (entitled to 88% Council Tax Reduction from 1 April 2014)

Pensioners (entitled to 100% Council Tax Reduction)

Vulnerable – entitled to high rate DLA/PIP (entitled to 88% Council Tax Reduction from 1 April 2014)

Working age employed (entitled to 88% Council Tax Reduction from 1 April 2013)

Working age not employed (entitled to 88% Council Tax Reduction from 1 April 2013)

## **2015/16**

### **Scheme**

Single under 25 years of age with no children

Pensioners (entitled to 100% Council Tax Reduction)

Vulnerable – entitled to high rate DLA/PIP (entitled to 88% Council Tax Reduction from 1 April 2015)

Working age employed (entitled to 78% Council Tax Reduction from 1 April 2015)

Working age not employed (entitled to 78% Council Tax Reduction from 1 April 2015)

Please see below table which shows the minimum amounts which customers would have had to pay under each of our schemes.

**2013**

Band	Full council tax charge	Pensioners (maximum 100% of charge)	Working Age (maximum 91.5% of charge)
A	981.31	0.00	83.41
B	1,144.87	0.00	97.31
C	1,308.42	0.00	111.22
D	1,471.97	0.00	125.12
E	1,799.07	0.00	152.92
F	2,126.18	0.00	180.73
G	2,453.28	0.00	208.53
H	2,943.94	0.00	250.23

**2014**

Band	Full council tax charge	Pensioners (maximum 100% of charge)	Working Age (maximum 88% of charge)
A	1,000.84	0.00	120.10
B	1,167.64	0.00	140.12
C	1,334.45	0.00	160.13
D	1,501.26	0.00	180.15
E	1,834.88	0.00	220.19
F	2,168.48	0.00	260.22
G	2,502.10	0.00	300.25
H	3,002.51	0.00	360.30

**2015**

Band	Full council tax charge	Pensioners (maximum 100% of charge)	Working Age Protected groups (maximum 88% of charge)	Working Age other groups (maximum 78% of charge)
A	1,020.75	0.00	122.49	224.57
B	1,190.88	0.00	142.91	261.99
C	1,361.00	0.00	163.32	299.42
D	1,531.13	0.00	333.45	469.55
E	1,871.38	0.00	673.70	809.80
F	2,211.63	0.00	1,013.95	1,150.05
G	2,551.88	0.00	1,354.20	1,490.30
H	3,062.26	0.00	1,864.58	2,000.68

**2016 – the CTR scheme was unchanged in this year**

Band	Full council tax charge	Pensioners (maximum 100% of charge)	Working Age Protected groups (maximum 88% of charge)	Working Age other groups (maximum 78% of charge)
A	1061.25	0.00	127.35	233.48
B	1238.13	0.00	148.58	272.39
C	1415.00	0.00	169.80	311.30
D	1591.87	0.00	346.67	488.17
E	1945.62	0.00	700.42	841.92
F	2299.37	0.00	1,054.17	1,195.67
G	2653.12	0.00	1,407.92	1,549.42
H	3183.74	0.00	1,938.54	2,080.04

4. If possible please provide the number of appeals that have been taken to the valuation tribunal relating to your application of LCTRS (or CTB) for each financial year since and including 2012/13.

Number of appeals taken to VT for CTR disputes are given below.

2012/2013 these appeals would not have been considered by VT

2013/2014 NIL

2014/2015 1

2015/2016 2

2016/2017(to date) 1

5. Does your LCTRS scheme incentivise work? If so how?

Our CTR scheme retains the incentives to work which are included in the housing benefit regulations by allowing the same earnings disregards.