

CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
C O U N C I L

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 000917  
Date            27 February 2017

### ***Business Rates***

**Request:**

I am trying to find out a few things about business rates.

I have tried to make my list of questions as short and simple as possible in the hope it helps you provide a quick response, if at all possible.

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, could you please provide the answers to the following questions based on information held by the authority as the collecting authority for business rates.

Please provide answers to the following five questions for the current financial year to date and the last four financial years, ie:

2016/2017 so far  
2015/2016  
2014/2015  
2013/2014  
2012/2013

Please provide

1. The total value of business rates (NNDR) owed to the authority in each year
2. The total number of businesses owing rates to the authority in each year
3. The value of (1) written off as unrecoverable in each year
4. The total value of business rates *successfully* collected in each year
5. The largest sum owed by any single business in each year
6. The trading name and company number of the business owing the largest amount in each year

If your answers can be provided in spreadsheet format that would be preferred.

We can confirm that the department holds information that you have asked for in respect of questions 1, 3 and 4 and is published annually as part of the quarterly return of council tax and non-domestic rates QRC4 data set. However, the information is exempt under section 21 of the FOI Act because it is reasonably accessible to you, and I am pleased to inform you that you can access it on our website via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/council-tax-statistics>

Figures for the current financial year will be published once finalised

Section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act exempts disclosure of information that is reasonably accessible by other means, and the terms of the exemption mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information.

You can find out more about Section 21 by reading the extract from the Act, available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/21>

In response to question 2 the following table details the number of businesses which were in arrears at the end of each respective financial year and the number still in arrears at 27 February 2017.

Year	Number of accounts in arrears at end of financial year	Number of accounts in arrears at 27/02/17
2012/13	1,002	195
2013/14	1,066	262
2014/15	954	306
2015/16	888	566

In response to questions 5 and 6 the following table details the largest single sum owed by a business in each year and where this can be disclosed the trading name of that company.

Year	Largest sum owed by a single business £	Trading name of business
2012/13	32,427.91	Private individual cannot be disclosed
2013/14	67,731.09	Nationwide Storage Ltd
2014/15	52,310.62	Nationwide Storage Ltd
2015/16	56,941.50	Liability in dispute