

CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 001526  
Date            22 September 2017

### *Use of Bailiffs/Enforcement Agents in 2016/17*

#### **Request:**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we would like to request the following information.

- 1) The number of times between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, or the nearest available twelve month period, that private bailiffs/enforcement agents have been instructed to enforce debts to the local authority relating to each of the following;
  - a. Council tax – 5,725
  - b. Parking – 0
  - c. Housing Benefit overpayments – 0
  - d. Business Rates – 418
  - e. Commercial Rents 0
  - f. Any other debt types, including any other overpayments – 5  
By “private bailiffs/enforcement agents” we mean those who are self-employed or who work for private companies, including as high court enforcement officers. Please include cases where local authority employees have visited a property to execute a warrant.
  
- 2) The number of:
  - a. Residential properties – 109,169
  - b. Business properties – 8,507that fall within this local authority area.
  
- 3) Do you signpost residents to one or more free debt advice agencies as part of your collections process? (Yes/No) If so, which charities?  
Yes - Citizens Advice, Stepchange, Money Advice Trust, Christians against poverty.

- 4) Have you adopted the Standard Financial Statement (or Common Financial Statement) as a tool for objectively assessing income and expenditure as part of your collections process? (Yes/No)  
[No, but intend to.](#)
- 5) Do you have a formal policy in place for dealing with residents in vulnerable circumstances as part of your collections process? (Yes/No)  
[Yes - Specific guidelines for dealing with residents in vulnerable circumstances are set out during the tender process.](#)
- 6) Do you currently have a policy of exempting recipients of Council Tax Support from the use of bailiff action? (Yes/No)  
[No](#)
- 7) Have you adopted the Citizens Advice/Local Government Association [Council Tax Protocol](#)? (Yes/No)  
[Yes](#)