

56/14

REQUEST

I would like to request the following data relating to council tax collection in your area for the first two quarters of both 2012/13 and 2013/14:

1. The number of households in arrears with their council tax payments;
2. The number of households in arrears with their council tax payments who are also in receipt of council tax support (sometimes referred to as council tax reduction, formally known as council tax benefit);
3. The council tax collection rate;
4. The number of times bailiffs have been referred to households in your area on account of non-payment of council tax.

As stated above, ideally we would want this data for the first two quarters of 2012/13 and the first two quarters of 2013/14. If this is not possible, please could you provide the most up-to-date data available for 2013/14 and the data for the equivalent period of the year before. If no such data is available with respect to 2013/14, please can you provide the expected numbers/rates for 2013/14 and the actual annual figures for 2012/13.

I would prefer to receive this data at this email address in excel format if possible, however, I am happy to receive it in another format if more convenient.

It would be helpful if you were to provide any brief notes or additional information which might be necessary to understand the context of the data provided, although I recognise that you are not obliged to do this. If for any reason you feel this request is unclear, please do not hesitate to contact me at 020 7721 8671. If you are not the appropriate authority for this request, or for part of it, please let me know as soon as is convenient.

RESPONSE

I write in response to your Freedom of Information Request. We do not keep statistics on the number of households in arrears on Council Tax, so we are unable to directly answer questions 1 and 2. However, the nearest we can supply is the number of accounts that have a balance outstanding at comparable dates in 2012/13 and 2013/14.

Council Tax	Previous Years		Current Year		All Years	
28/01/2013	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
£0.01 to £0.99	57	£30.92	47	£23.69	58	£32.27
£1.00 to £49.99	603	£10,871.43	1,329	£29,084.07	1,562	£33,408.57
£50.00 to £499.99	1,474	£344,718.21	7,246	£1,385,311.64	7,902	£1,544,703.62
£500 to £999.99	508	£364,275.81	933	£656,450.29	1,183	£829,377.50
£1000.00 plus	459	£790,713.70	337	£420,121.64	879	£1,593,702.33

3,101 £1,510,610.07 9,892 £2,490,991.33 11,584 £4,001,224.29

Council Tax	Previous Years		Current Year		All Years	
	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
28/01/2014						
£0.01 to £0.99	75	£33.67	134	£52.80	138	£53.76
£1.00 to £49.99	761	£12,511.91	4,340	£91,349.55	4,488	£93,558.99
£50.00 to £499.99	1,530	£356,261.92	13,981	£2,695,009.81	14,441	£2,833,117.31
£500 to £999.99	565	£401,000.97	1,464	£1,022,033.45	1,738	£1,212,527.40
£1000.00 plus	482	£874,663.63	536	£666,335.37	1,106	£1,980,101.88
	3,413	£1,644,472.10	20,455	£4,474,780.98	21,911	£6,119,359.34

These amounts are not necessarily in arrears but are due for all the years up to 31 March 2014. As well as the working age claimants having to pay this year there are some other reasons why the figures have increased. Over 11,000 accounts are now paying over 12 instalments instead of 10 last year and this Council chose not to replace the Class C exemption (which was for empty properties in the first six months) when the Government abolished it on 31 March 2013.

The figures for question 3 are as follows:-

2012/13	quarter ending 30 th June	30.95%
2013/14	quarter ending 30 th June	29.75%
2012/13	quarter ending 30 th Sep	58.93%
2013/14	quarter ending 30 th Sep	57.19%

With regards to question 4 –

1st & 2nd quarter 2012/2013 = 1484

1st & 2nd quarter 2013/2014 = 2208