630/2014

A freedom of information request to all 'billing authority' Councils in England

1. Provide the number of households (a) overall and (b) with children that were in arrears on their council tax on the 31st March for each of the following years.

	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
Total number of households liable for council tax in your local authority	68177	67915	67499
Number of households with children in your local authority	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available
Number of individual households in Council Tax arrears	Cannot get figures as at 31st March 2014 only as at today's date (5596 accounts with arrears).	Cannot get figures as at 31st March 2013 only as at today's date (1196 accounts with arrears).	Cannot get figures as at 31st March 2012 only as at today's date (620 accounts with arrears).
Number of individual households in Council tax arrears with children	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available

2. When a household loses the right to pay their council tax by instalments, does the council have a policy to:
   (a) allow an individual to negotiate for instalments to be reinstated - Yes on the first Final Notice of the year
   (b) allow an individual to negotiate affordable repayments – Yes, after the granting of a Liability Order
   (c) signpost to debt advice services before a court summons is sent
   (d) signpost to debt advice services after the summons is sent but before the court hearing
   (e) signpost to debt advice services once a liability order has been granted
   (f) other (please explain)

   Re c, d, e & f, we work closely with various agencies including the C.A.B, One Support etc
3. Do you have specific council tax arrears collection practice for households with children under 18? Please explain how this differs from standard practice and send us any relevant policies. No

4. How many individual (a) households and (b) households with children under 18 have been issued with a court summons in each of the last three financial years (2013/12, 2012/13, 2011/12)? Information not available

5. Please complete the table below, showing when liability orders have been granted for households within your local authority in the last three financial years.

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Number of liability orders granted	3569	3638	6559
Number of liability orders granted for households with children	Not Known	Not Known	Not Known

6. Please complete the table below, showing how liability orders have been used for households within your local authority in the last three financial years. If the answers are not known for number of households with children please indicate this and provide for the number of figures are for households overall as information regarding those with children are not known

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Number of households with children that an attachment of earnings order has been made	861	924	1023
Number of households with children that a deductions from benefits order has been made	805	803	1788
Number of households with children that have been referred to bailiffs	2875	2537	3681
Number of households with children where proceedings have started for a committal to prison	0	0	0

7. How many of the referrals to bailiffs have resulted in the removal of goods for (a) all households and (b) all households with children - None

8. Council Tax Support Scheme

How many households within your local authority received 100% subsidy for council tax in 2012/13?	For 12/13 we were still under the Council Tax Benefit Scheme. Information not held.

How many households within your local authority received 100% subsidy for council tax in 2013/14?	5140
For non pensioner households with children what was the maximum percentage of their council tax bill that could be covered by council tax support?	For 2013/14 90% could be covered by Local Council Tax Support for working aged claimants.