

Dear FOI Officer

Council Tax Support scheme in 2015/16

I would like to request the following information relating to the local council tax support scheme (sometimes referred to as council tax reduction) in your area:

1. Does your local authority intend to change its current council tax support scheme in April 2015? (yes/no/undecided)
2. If yes, please outline if and how any of the following components of the scheme will change in 2015/16:

Component of Council tax Support Scheme	Will this be different in 2015/16? (Yes or No)	Details (such as reducing the savings limit to £6,000 or changing the taper rate to 25%)
Require all residents to pay at least some of their council tax liability, regardless of income	Yes	Maximum discount now 80%
Cap the amount that can be claimed based on the band of the property	No	
The rate at which council tax support is withdrawn (tapered) as income increases	No	
The maximum capital/savings someone can have to be eligible for council tax support (savings limit)	No	
The minimum amount of council tax support that can be claimed before it is withdrawn in full	No	
The length of time a claimants has to be resident in the local authority area to be eligible for support	Yes	Residency criteria has been suspended
Entitlement to a second adult rebate	No	
The components of income that are considered in the means-test	Yes	Child Maintenance no longer included in the calculation of discount
The hardship funding available to affected residents	No	

3. Please list the groups exempt from some or all of the above changes because they are deemed 'vulnerable' if any. (for example: families with children aged under 5, recipients of Disability Living Allowance)
4. If exceptions are made for 'vulnerable' groups, please describe what these exceptions are.