



Coventry City Council

UNCLASSIFIED

[Redacted]

**Resources Directorate**

Chris West  
*Executive Director Resources*  
Room 56, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Council House  
Earl Street  
Coventry  
CV1 5RR

Our reference: 20122319  
Date: 11/02/2014

**Please contact:**  
**Beth Home**  
**02476 831 936**

Dear [Redacted]

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for requesting information about Council Debt, which the Council received on 27.01.2014. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You have requested the following information;

*1) Annually since 2008 (broken down by year, financial or calendar whichever is easiest), please provide the total amount of debt owed to the Council by residents that is written off. If this falls within compliance costs, please break figures down by what the debts were for. For example:*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Type of debt</i>	<i>Total figure written off</i>
2008	Council Tax	£45,000

*2) Annually since 2008, the total figure for Business Rates debt owed to the council (broken down by year, financial or calendar whichever is easiest)*

*If providing data for this many years does not fall within compliance costs, please provide data for the most recent year and work backwards until it goes beyond compliance costs.*

*Please also provide a receipt for this request, the deadline for which I can expect to receive my data and, if this is no problem, include the word "ACKNOWLEDGEMENT" in the subject for the receipt.*

*In regards to your request you clarified what you were asking on 28.01.14 and you replied with;*

*On second thoughts, looking at my FOI request I think I will restrict question one to writing off council tax debts for individuals, rather than any others (e.g. housing benefit, parking fines). I also see that 'residents' might be confusing. By this I mean anyone living within your council paying council tax. May I also make a further request as follows:*

*3) Annually since 2008 (and broken down by year) the number of court summons issued for unpaid council tax.*

In response please see figures requested are as follows:

Year	Write Offs	Summonses
2008/09	£1.1m	13,796
2009/10	£1m	13,159
2010/11	£1.9m	13,074
2011/12	£0.6m	12,460
2012/13	£1.6m	13,854

In regards to your request amounts will only be written off as a last resort in instances where it has not been possible to trace liable individuals or where it is uneconomical to collect. The amounts shown as written off will not solely relate to the year in which write off happens as collection continues after the end of the financial year. To add some context, the amount of Council Tax to be collected each year is in the region of £110m.

Please note, under the Re-Use of Public Sector Information 2005 Regulations you are free to use this information for your own use or for the purposes of news reporting.

However, any other type of re-use under the Regulations, for example; publication of the information or circulation to the public, will require permission of the copyright owner and may be subject to terms and conditions. For documents where the copyright does not belong to Coventry City Council you will need to apply separately to the copyright holder.

If you wish to apply to reuse the information you have requested or have any other issues relating to this request please do not hesitate to contact me.

You have a right to make representations about the outcome or handling of your request – in the first instance this must be made in writing within 40 working days of the date of this letter, to the Council's Information Governance Team at:

Council House, Room 21a  
Lower Ground Floor  
Earl Street, Coventry.  
CV1 5RR  
[infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

If you have done this and are still dissatisfied, the Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

Beth Home  
**Senior Administrator**