



Information Governance Team

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16 December 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI465997243

Thank you for your request for information relating to council tax arrears.

You have requested the following information:

Please provide the following for each of the financial years 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022, and 2022/2023 so far (from the beginning of the current financial year until 15 November 2022):

1. Number of households in council tax arrears

2. The total amount of council tax owed by these households

For Questions 1 and 2, please see the attached spreadsheet.

3. The number of cases of council tax debt passed to bailiffs (note these are also called 'enforcement agents') and the overall amount of council tax which was owed (just in relation to the cases which were passed to bailiffs)

Year	No. of cases	Total Amount
2019/20	16,531	£11,472,627.25
2020/21	5,445	£3,846,798.04
2021/22	11,551	£10,131,095.97
2022/23	11,711	£3,422,351.35

4.Total amount recovered by bailiffs

Year	Amount
2019/20	£2,101,443.57
2020/21	£939,864.28
2021/22	£2,211,124.78
2022/23	£1,398,661.29

Please note, the value recovered in each year may relate to arrears from cases received in prior years and are not necessarily relating to the period the cases were received.

5. The total amount in bailiff fees and court costs added to these council tax arrears

Liability order costs:

Year	Amount
2019/20	£1,795,059.50
2020/21	£230,476.00
2021/22	£1,727,078.50
2022/23	£1,397.771.00

Enforcement Agent costs:

Year	Amount
2019/20	£800,651.80
2020/21	£330,046.62
2021/22	£597,848.69
2022/23	£368,590.45

Please note, the value of fees recovered in each year may relate to arrears from cases received in prior years and are not necessarily relating to the period the cases were received.

6.The names of enforcement agencies employed by the council. (If multiple, please detail % split of cases allocated if the information is available)

Equita Ltd and Newlyn Plc.

In regards to the percentage split, we confirm that we do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. The percentage split is not recorded.

7.How much are the fees that can be added on to council tax debts to cover bailiff and court order costs, and how are these calculated? (Is there a percentage or flat fee?)

Liability order costs:

The Council requests the Magistrates' Court grant Liability Order costs at the Liability Order hearing. The costs are added to a council taxpayers account upon issue on a summons for non-payment advising that a liability order hearing is to take place. Attached is a copy of costs for 2022/23.

Year	L/O costs
2019/20	£78.50
2020/21	£78.50
2021/22	£78.50
2022/23	£78.50

Enforcement Agent costs:

Please refer to the legislation, The Taking Control of Goods (fees) Regulations 2014:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/1/contents/made>

Committal to prison costs:

Are awarded by Magistrates' Court in accordance with legislation: The Council Tax (Administration & Enforcement) Regulations 1992 – Schedule 6 – see attached.

8. Number of bankruptcy proceedings started against individuals who owe you council tax

Year	Number of cases
2019/20	2
2020/21	1
2021/22	3
2022/23	0

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If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance



Coventry City Council

Schedule of Court Fees & Council Costs

The Magistrates' Court Fees 16.2 and 17.1

Committal Summons' (£245.00 per summons) £245.00
The Magistrates' Court Fees 10.1

Arrest Warrant (£75.00 per warrant)
The Magistrates' Court Fees 9.2

Total fees paid to the court £245.00

The Council Tax (Administration & Enforcement) Regulations 1992 - Schedule 6

The Non Domestic Rating (Collection & Enforcement) (Local Lists) Regulations 1989 - Schedule 4

Committal Summons' (£60.00 per summons) £ 60.00

Arrest Warrant (£70.00 per warrant)

Total contribution towards costs £60.00

Total Costs to the Council

Court Fees £245.00

Contribution towards Councils' costs £ 60.00

TOTAL COSTS THE COUNCIL WOULD APPLY FOR £305.00