

## Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) Request ID: FOI504351727

Thank you for your request for information relating to energy bill support payments.

You have requested the following information:

This FoIA request relates to the £150 energy bill support payments (sometimes called a 'council tax rebate') issued to Council Tax band A-D households in your area as at 1 April 2022. Further information is here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-council-tax-rebate-2022-23-billing-authority-guidance/support-for-energy-bills-the-council-tax-rebate-2022-23-billing-authority-guidance

On 2 September 2022, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities reminded local authorities in England to place any unclaimed "core" £150 payments onto council tax accounts for eligible households. This allowed for payment after the "core" scheme closed. See the section titled "Crediting council tax accounts" here:

https://web.archive.org/web/20221116231926/https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/governr\_next\_steps\_for\_Sept\_2022\_update.pdf

The questions below only relate to the "core/main" £150 scheme. No information is required concerning the separate "discretionary" schemes.

- 1) For properties where you are the local council, how many properties have an unclaimed "core" £150 on their council tax account?
- 2) How many of the properties in "1)" had at least one individual in council tax exemption

## class N as at 1 April 2022?

- 3) For properties where you are the local council, how many are recorded as a Home in Multiple Occupation (HMO) for planning purposes but not for council tax purposes?
- 4) How many of these properties in "3)" have an unclaimed "core" £150 on their council tax account and had at least one individual in council tax exemption class N as at 1 April 2022?
- 5) What decision(s) has the council made regarding distribution of these unclaimed "core" £150 payments to the eligible 1 April 2022 occupants?

For Questions 1 to 5, we are unable to answer the specific questions for your request as we do not have any "unclaimed" payments.

Coventry City Council decided not to run an application process and instead proactively awarded payment to all eligible households. Customers received the funding via either BACS or Post Office voucher. If the Post Office voucher was not cashed, it was cancelled, and the amount was credited to their council tax account.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: <u>FOI/EIR Disclosure Log</u>, <u>Publication Scheme</u>, <u>Facts about Coventry</u> and <u>Open Data</u> that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

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: <a href="mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk">infogov@coventry.gov.uk</a>

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 <a href="mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk">icocasework@ico.org.uk</a>.

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

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**