



Reference: FOI 0393

Request:

I write to make a freedom of information request concerning council tax.

1. Please supply a copy of your council's procedure for dealing with unpaid council tax, including a timeline of when bailiffs are involved and bankruptcy charges filed.

Response: Unpaid Council Tax is collected in accordance with the relevant governing Legislation being the Local Government Finance Act and the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations. Any Enforcement Action is undertaken in accordance with the Taking Control Of Good Regulations where deemed necessary.

2. For each of the past five financial years and the year to date to 15.10.2018, please provide: The number of individuals owing outstanding council tax in the following categories of arrears: £0-5k, £5k-10k, £10-15k, etc in 5k intervals up to £50k+?

Response: The information is not held in individual format and held under accounts numbers. To provide this information it would require the manual checking of 540,595 accounts therefore this part of the request is refused under s12 (1) Freedom of Information Act 2000, since the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

In assessing the cost of complying, the costs attributable to officer time involved in complying have been taken into account. Such costs are limited to £450.00 under the Regulations, which equates to eighteen hours of officer time.

3. Please state:

a) Total spend on bailiff recovery services

b) Total recovered council tax by bailiff providers

in each of the last five financial years, and the current financial year to 15.10.18

Response: North Tyneside Council has a partnership agreement with Engie which covers various services that Engie manage/administrate of behalf of NTC. Part of this contract is the provision of Enforcement Services and the cost is included in the overall cost and not broken down individually.

4. Please provide a list of all bailiff companies used by your council during the period specified above.

Response: Equita, Bristow and Sutor, Internal Enforcement Agents

5. Please state:

a) the number of individuals your council has brought bankruptcy charges against in each of the last five financial years, and the current financial year to 15.10.18.

b) Please state how many of these bankruptcy charges that were successful

c) Please provide a list of all administration companies used by your council for the specified period

d) Please state the total spend by your council on administration companies for the specified period.

e) Please state the total cost recovered following a successful bankruptcy charge.

Response to 5a-e = 0