



Reference: FOI1491

**Request:**

Note, do not include working hours/resources etc in these costs, by costs I refer solely to fees directly arising from the use of the public courts system.

1) How many court summons and liability orders have been issued by your council for unpaid council tax in the year

- a) 2016
- b) 2017
- c) 2018
- d) 2019 (so far)?

If your council is covering several councils/districts, please answer for all of them.

- a. 2016/17 summons 17,566 & liability orders 11,023
- b. 2017/18 summons 20,128 & liability orders 13,140
- c. 2018/19 summons 20,229 & liability orders 14,432
- d. 2019/20 summons 10,260 & liability orders 7,710 so far

2) How many of these were successful in

- a) 2016
- b) 2017
- c) 2018
- d) 2019?

3) How many summons and liability orders were issued for late council tax payments of

- a) under £50
  - aa) in 2016
  - bb) in 2017
  - cc) in 2018
  - dd) in 2019

- b) under £30
  - aa) in 2016
  - bb) in 2017
  - cc) in 2018
  - dd) in 2019?

- c) under £10
  - aa) in 2016
  - bb) in 2017
  - cc) in 2018
  - dd) in 2019?

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Questions 2 and 3 are 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.

The reason for this is that there is no report that can be produced or created to identify the information. The only way it could be gathered would be to manually examine each of the 68,183 accounts listed on the summons reports. Based on 30 seconds for each account that would amount to over 568 hours.

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

- 4) What was the overall cost in £ to your council for all unsuccessful summons and liability orders made in
- a) 2016
  - b) 2017
  - c) 2018
  - d) 2019 (so far)?

The Council Tax recovery service is delivered under an outsourced agreement with Engie. Therefore, this level of detail is not held by the Authority