



Reference: FOI-686

Request:

I am writing to politely request the following information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA):

1. For the last financial year for which data is available, how much is owed overall in council tax arrears, broken down by year?
2. For the last financial year for which data is available, how many households are in council tax arrears, broken down by year?
3. For the last financial year for which data is available, how many applications for a special repayment plan to pay council tax have the council received, broken down by year?
4. For the last financial year for which data is available, how many referrals have the council made to bailiffs in order to collect unpaid council tax, broken down by year?

Response:

1. The current outstanding balances for the last 5 years and the current financial year is:

2022 - £9,017,869.88

2021 – £5,321,278.01

2020 - £4,162,543.33

2019 - £3,617,319.62

2018 - £2,747,662.39

2017 - £1,993,448.86

2. There is no report that can be produced or created to identify the information however rather than declining the request I can confirm the number of Liability Orders obtained over the last 5 years and the current financial year is:

2022 – 9658

2021 – 10035

2020 – 8121

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2019 – 15373

2018 – 14432

2017– 13140

3. There is no report that can be produced or created to identify this information so the only way it could be gathered would be to manually examine each account where a Liability Order was issued to see if a special arrangement has been made.

As 70,759 Liability Orders have been issued over the last 5 years and the current financial year, I would suggest that for each account this could take between 1 and 5 minutes to investigate, but even at 1 minute per property this would exceed 18 hours.

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 considered. Such costs are limited to £450.00 under the Regulations, which equates to eighteen hours of officer time.

4. The number of referrals to an Enforcement Agent for the last 5 years and the current financial year is:

2022 – 9907

2021 – 2262

2020 – 2427

2019 – 11396

2018 – 964 no further information was recorded prior to this and available for this FOI request.