

Reference: RFI 1709008

Request:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I would be interested in any information held by the local authority regarding my request. I understand that I do not have to specify particular files or documents and it is the departments responsibility to provide the information I require. If you need further clarification please contact me

Please confirm:-

1) in the financial years 2016-17 (full year) and separately 2017-18 (for the period of 1st April 2017 until 31st August 2017)

I) total number of summons issued in the Magistrates Court for non-payment either in whole or in part of non-domestic (business rates) rates.

II) total number of Liability Orders obtained in the Magistrates Court for non-payment either in whole or in part of non-domestic (business rates) rates.

III) total number of referrals made to Enforcement Officers (Bailiffs) to enforce Liability Orders for non-payment either in whole or in part of non-domestic (business rates) rates.

Response:

I) Summons 2016/17 1838 2017/18 486

II) Liability Orders 2016/17 481 2017/18 236

III) Enforcement Officer Referrals. The information is not held in an extractable format within our computer system which means that each of the 717 accounts would have to be accessed to see if a referral had been made. For each account this would take between 2 and 5 minutes to determine, depending on the number of enforcement stages per liability order. 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.