

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 003418
Date 1 April 2019

Council Tax

Request:

In each of the past three years from January to December (or April to March, depending on how you record the information) how many households paid council tax to your local authority?

1. In each of the past three years from January to December (or April to March, depending on how you record the information), how many households claimed a 25% council tax reduction due to one occupant being medically certified as 'severely mentally impaired'?

Years	SMI 25% Disregard	SMI 100% Exemption	Total
2016-17 (April to March)	690	884	1574
2017-18 (April to March)	677	892	1569
2018-19 (April to March)	608	876	1484

The data in the table is based on our records for the stated year as at 09/04/2019. This is because Council Tax Records are subject to change and are based on relevant information received to date.

2. In each of the past three years from January to December (or April to March, depending on how you record the information), how many households didn't pay any council tax at all due to the sole occupant being medically certified as 'severely mentally impaired'?
[See our response to question 1 above.](#)
3. How many people (in total) broken down by impairment does you council believe should be able to collect this reduction? (If needs your own assessment is fine)
[In response to question 3, Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at:](#)
 - [Section 1\(1\) \(a\) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held.](#)

- The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

In respect of question 3, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information.

Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Act, that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".

4. How many pages long is the form for applying for a 25% council tax reduction due to a 'severe mental impairment'?
Our form for applying for a Council Tax Reduction due to Severely Mentally Impairment is 2 pages long. We have one form for both the SMI Disregard and SMI Exemption; A decision on whether to award the Disregard (Discount) or Exemption is based on the information provided on the form and our records.
5. How many pages long is the form for applying for a council tax exemption due to a 'severe mental impairment'?
See our response to question 4 above.
6. What supporting evidence/information, other than a diagnosis from a registered medical practitioner and proof of eligibility for one of a list of certain benefits – do applicants have to provide in order to claim the 25% council tax reduction for a 'severe mental impairment'?
We do not require any additional information.