

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 003515
Date 26 April 2019

Council Tax Arrears and Bailiff Use

Request:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information;

Please provide each set of information above, for each financial year as requested, separately in your response.

- 1) How many households were in Council Tax arrears each year?

	Accounts in Arrears
2013/14	18,897
2014/15	24,086
2015/16	24,476
2016/17	24,120
2017/18	20,970
2018/19	20,850

- 2) How many households in Council Tax arrears became subject to a liability order?

	Accounts Subject to a Liability Order
2013/14	14,384
2014/15	18,981
2015/16	15,772
2016/17	18,003
2017/18	17,291
2018/19	17,466

3) How many cases of council tax arrears were referred to bailiffs?

	Accounts Referred to Enforcement Agents
2013/14	7,051
2014/15	7,751
2015/16	7,958
2016/17	8,053
2017/18	8,290
2018/19	6,285

3b) What was the value of the council tax arrears referred to bailiffs?

	Value Referred to Enforcement Agents
	£
2013/14	4,349,278
2014/15	4,774,973
2015/16	5,059,372
2016/17	4,945,894
2017/18	5,309,036
2018/19	4,720,656

3c) What was the value of the arrears recovered?

	Value Recovered Through Enforcement Agents Excludes direct payments
	£
2013/14	906,556.90
2014/15	1,241,672.97
2015/16	1,161,064.66
2016/17	940,959.28
2017/18	1,595,341.58
2018/19	1,905,110.28

3d) What were the costs of the bailiff action (including costs faced by households and costs faced by the council)?

There were no costs incurred by the council and any costs incurred by households were in accordance with the statutory fees. A pre compliance letter is issued prior to the application of statutory fees.

4) How many cases of council tax arrears had repayment plans arranged?

	Number of repayment plans arranged
2013/14	7,070
2014/15	8,316
2015/16	7,718
2016/17	8,550
2017/18	7,779
2018/19	8,161

- 5) How many cases of council tax arrears had third party deductions applied?

	Number Accounts with Deductions from Benefits
2013/14	5432
2014/15	6500
2015/16	4588
2016/17	3276
2017/18	3695
2018/19	4079

- 6) How many cases of council tax arrears had attachment of earnings orders applied?

	Number Accounts with Attachment of Earnings Orders
2013/14	2548
2014/15	3300
2015/16	2583
2016/17	1819
2017/18	2695
2018/19	2557