

Nicola Hesketh
Project and Information Coordinator

Our Ref: FOI3736/NH/02
Please ask for: Nicola Hesketh
Direct dial: 01827 709 587
E-mail: FOImailbox@tamworth.gov.uk

[name redacted]

27th January 2016

Dear [name redacted]

Freedom of Information – Request for Information

With regards to your recent enquiry for information held by the Authority under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Please find the information you requested below with reference in the box to your original enquiry for clarity where multiple answers are required.

Details of Your Request

- Does your local authority intend to change its current council tax support scheme in April 2016? (yes)
- If yes, please outline if and how any of the following components of the scheme will change in 2016/17:
- If exceptions are made for 'vulnerable' groups in your area's local council tax support scheme, please describe what these exceptions are and which groups are exempt

The response to your request as follows:

Please see attached PDF

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT USE OF INFORMATION PROVIDED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FoIA)

Most of the information that we provide in response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests will be subject to copyright protection. In most cases the copyright will be owned by Tamworth Borough Council. The copyright in other information may be owned by another person or organisation, as indicated on the information itself.

You are free to use any information supplied for your own non-commercial research or private study purposes. The information may also be used for any other purpose allowed by a limitation or exception in copyright law, such as news reporting.

However, any other type of re-use, for example by publishing the information in analogue or digital form, including on the internet, will require the permission of the copyright owner. For information where the copyright is owned by Tamworth Borough Council details of the conditions on re-use can be provided on application to the contact below.

For information where the copyright is owned by another person or organisation you must apply to the copyright owner to obtain their permission.

This council also believes in transparency of information, this includes requests made under the Freedom of Information Act and the Environmental Information Regulations and we reserve the right to publish these requests in our Disclosure Log along with the response, the requestors name and/or company where the information is requested on a regular basis. Care shall be taken not to publish your email address or physical address where it is considered personal information as defined under the Data Protection Act 1998.

Project and Information Coordinator,
Tamworth Borough Council,
Marmion House,
Lichfield Street,
Tamworth,
B79 7BZ

Details of Tamworth Borough Council's internal review and complaints procedure are attached, in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Yours Sincerely

Nicola Hesketh
Project and Information Coordinator



Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, Bethnal Green, London E2 6HG

Dear FOI Officer

Council Tax Support scheme in 2016/17

I would like to request the following information relating to the local council tax support scheme (sometimes referred to as council tax reduction) in your area.

Please note that questions 1 and 2 apply to intended changes to the local council tax support scheme in your area in April 2016, while question 3 refers to specific protections for vulnerable groups. Please answer question 3 regardless of your answer to question 1.

Changes to the scheme in 2016/17

- Does your local authority intend to change its current council tax support scheme in April 2016? (yes)
- If yes, please outline if and how any of the following components of the scheme will change in 2016/17:

Component of Council tax Support Scheme	Will this be different in 2016/17? (Yes or No)	Details (such as reducing the savings limit to £6,000 or changing the taper rate to 25%)
Require all residents to pay at least some of their council tax liability, regardless of income		
Cap the amount that can be claimed based on the band of the property		
The rate at which council tax support is withdrawn (tapered) as income increases		
The maximum capital/savings someone can have to be eligible for council tax support (savings limit)		
The minimum amount of council tax support that can be claimed before it is withdrawn in full		
Entitlement to a second adult rebate		

The components of income that are considered in the means-test	Yes	Maintenance will be disregarded as income
The hardship funding available to affected residents		

Specific protections for vulnerable groups

Please answer question 3 regardless of your answer to question 1.

- If exceptions are made for 'vulnerable' groups in your area's local council tax support scheme, please describe what these exceptions are and which groups are exempt
- **Reduction continues to be based on 100% of Council Tax liability for working age people who:**
 - **Receive a Severe Disability Premium**
 - **Have a disabled child**
 - **Claim a War Disability/ War Widows Pension/ Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payment.**

I would prefer if your response was delivered by email to [email redacted]. However, I am happy to receive it by post to the address below if more convenient.

It would be helpful if you were to provide any additional information which might be necessary to understand the context of the information provided, although I recognise that you are not obliged to do this.

If for any reason you feel this request is unclear, please do not hesitate to contact me at 020 7613 5397. If you are not the appropriate authority for this request, or for part of it, please let me know as soon as is convenient.

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely

[name redacted]
6 January 2016

New Policy Institute
Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, E2 6HG 020 7613 5397, cts@npi.org.uk