

Nicola Hesketh
Project and Information Co Ordinator

Our Ref: FOI3945/NH/02
Please ask for: Nicola Hesketh
Direct dial: 01827 709 587
E-mail: FOImailbox@tamworth.gov.uk

[name and address redacted]

1st June 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

Please note - all questions are net of awarded benefits, discounts and exemptions. This request relates to net collectible debts:

1. *The total council tax charged to all council tax payers (including Council Tax Support claimants) during the course of 2015/16 (2015/16 tax only)*
2. *The total council tax collected from all council tax payers (including Council Tax Support claimants) during 2015/16, as of 31st March 2016 (2015/16 tax only)*
3. *The total council tax charged to all "non-protected" Council Tax Support claimants (excluding pensioners) during the course of 2015/16 (2015/16 tax only)*
4. *The total council tax collected from all "non-protected" Council Tax Support claimants (excluding pensioners) during 2015/16, as of 31st March 2016 (2015/16 tax only)*
5. *The total number of council tax accounts that were in receipt of working age Council Tax Support at some point during 2015/16 (if known)*

In questions 3 and 4, "protected" means those claimants who are entitled to a maximum of 100% support (prior to income-based means testing) under the council's 2015/16 Council Tax Support scheme – this will include pensioners, and may include disabled people, lone parents etc, depending on the council's CTS scheme. Note – this includes claimants who are required to pay some council tax due to the income means test, but are nevertheless "protected" groups under the council's CTS scheme (needless to say, a claimant who is ineligible for CTS once the means test has been carried out is not considered a claimant). "Non-protected" means those falling outside protected groups – this will essentially mean most working age claimants.

If data is not held (or is not obtainable within the section 12 cost limit) for questions 3 and 4, please provide data for the following questions 6 and 7:

6. *The total council tax charged to all working age Council Tax Support claimants (excluding pensioners) during the course of 2015/16 (2015/16 tax only)*
7. *The total council tax collected from all working age Council Tax Support claimants (excluding pensioners) during 2015/16, as of 31st March 2016 (2015/16 tax only)*

I am also requesting the following information, which the council need not respond to if doing so would contravene the section 12 cost limit:

8. *The number of working age Council Tax Support claimants with current attachments to benefits for the payment of outstanding council tax*
9. *The number working age Council Tax Support claimants with pending attachments to benefits for the payment of outstanding council tax, where the pending attachment is "queued" behind a previous year's ongoing attachment*
10. *The total amount of council tax charged to Council Tax Support claimants covering 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16*
11. *Of the question 10 figure, how much has to date been written off?*

The information the council supplies for questions 1-4 depends on how the council records such data – if the council does not hold the data in the requested form for any question, it is not expected to examine individual council tax payer records to create the data. This should ensure that the section 12 exemption does not arise.

If data is not available as of 31st March 2016, please provide the most recent data available preceding 31st March 2016 (please state the date the data is correct to).

2. £29,890,834.26 "in year" + £ 453,257.06 prepayments = £30,344,091.32 (includes payments leaving accounts in credit
3. We do not hold this information
4. We do not hold this information
5. Not Known
6. We do not hold this information
7. We do not hold this information
8. Not known
9. We do not hold this information
10. Charges as at 31/03/16 are £2,202,424.24 for 2013/14, £2,014,887.24 for 2014/15 and £1,793,712.90 for 2015/16
11. Write off amounts as at 31/03/2016 are £6,864.47 for 2013/14, £4,272.53 for 2014/15 and £2,884.04 for 2015/16.

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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