

Nicola Hesketh
Project and Information Co Ordinator

Our Ref: FOI4080/NH/02
Please ask for: Nicola Hesketh
Direct dial: 01827 709 587
E-mail: FOImailbox@tamworth.gov.uk

[name redacted]
West Suffolk Council

19th August 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

I am researching the impact of Local Council Tax Reduction Schemes (LCTRS) on council tax collection and require certain information.

I would like to know (in order of priority):

1. The total number of:

- reminders issued;*
- final notices issued;*
- court summonses issued;*
- liability orders issued;*
- attachment of benefit arrangements made;*
- attachment of earnings arrangements made; and*
- enforcement agents employed;*

in relation to your collection of council tax for each financial year since (and including) 2012/13

2. If possible please provide the council tax collection rate, among LCTRS recipients only, for each financial year since 2012/13. Please present this collection rate as a percentage of the total council tax liability for LCTRS recipients. If possible please also provide the council tax collection rate, among Council Tax Benefit (CTB) recipients only, for 2012/13.

3. If possible please provide the average council tax bill for someone on the full council tax reduction available under LCTRS (or CTB) for each financial year since and including 2012/13.

4. If possible please provide the number of appeals that have been taken to the valuation tribunal relating to your application of LCTRS (or CTB) for each financial year since and including 2012/13.

5. Does your LCTRS scheme incentivise work? If so how?

If you have any questions about my request please do not hesitate to get in touch. Many thanks for your time.

The response to your request as follows:

1.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17 (to 31/07)
Reminders	10,813	13,449	13,280	12,159	7,149
Statutory finals	1,604	1,864	1,910	1,543	657
Summonses	3,336	4,387	4,301	4,056	1,886
Liability Orders	2,500	3,470	3,372	3,178	1,440
AOBs	378	836	648	734	243
AOEs	393	398	353	421	139
Enforcement Agents	1,422	1,613	2,070	1,904	759

2. The following collection rates are based on any accounts with LCTR/ CTB on their accounts for the year, regardless of duration. The collection figures are as at 31/03 of that financial year and include collection of court costs:

2012/13	87.7%
2013/14	83.9%
2014/15	84.5%
2015/16	85.6%

3.

4. 0

5. Yes it does – it disregards maintenance and Child Benefit for people with children who are subject to a CTR means test

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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