

Nicola Hesketh
Project and Information Co Ordinator

Our Ref: FOI4868/NH/02
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[Name Redacted]
[Address Redacted]

22nd December 2017

[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

1. Why do you think it alright to breach my contract with you on the provision of service?
2. What is the cost of providing the green bin collection service per year to the average Band D property in Tamworth?
3. What rebate do you intend to give to all the people for not providing this paid for service?
4. What amount do you intend to reduce the Band D by before adding the maximum 1.95% council tax increase allowed before you have to hold a referendum?

The response to your request as follows:

Council tax helps to provide a wide range of local council services and amenities including street cleansing, adult and social care, highways, libraries, Police and Fire.

Councils across the country are having to become financially self-sufficient as the government continues to withdraw funding. We know residents will not welcome the extra charge. However by introducing a producer-pays principle we are aiming to make the charge as fair as possible, as only households who use the service will pay for it. We are hopeful residents understand the financial pressures we face, and that by charging for the service, rather than stopping it, we can keep offering a garden waste service

We are not required by law to offer garden waste collections. Whilst, in the past, we could afford to provide the service free of charge, in order to continue to provide the service, we now need to pass on the costs to those who want to use it, or not offer the service at all.

The income from the subscription charge will help to offset the cost of running the service and other vital council services.

1. **There is no contract in place – I would remind you that Council Tax is a tax and is not subject to the law of contract. Council Tax was introduced by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and procedures for collection are determined by the Council Tax (Administration & Enforcement) Regulations 1992 (as amended). Your liability for this is not contingent upon either your consent or the existence of a contractual relationship with the Council.**

2. **The Council operates a Joint Waste service with Lichfield District Council, including collection of recycling, green waste and general domestic waste. The cost of this service is outlined within the Councils budget book on the website at: <https://www.tamworth.gov.uk/budget-book-and-reports>**

The cost of the green waste service is not held and accounted for separately.

3. **Nil - there will not be a rebate for 2017/18.**
4. **Nil – The green waste charge is not council tax, it is an additional charge for provision of the green waste service.**

We have put together a FAQ web page for commonly asked questions relating to garden waste, this can be found at: <https://lichfielddc.gov.uk/Residents/Environment/Recycling-bins-and-waste/Garden-waste-FAQs.aspx>

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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