



Rutland County Council

Rutland County Council

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22 May 2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 571/17

Dear Sir/Madam

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is provided below.

Request:

'Rutland County Council does not hold any records relating to a legal officers involvement in obtaining court costs in relation to Council Tax enforcement.

You refer to Appendix D of The Councils Corporate Debt Policy and in particular Section 3. Rutland County Council no longer operates this part of the policy and it is no longer published on our website. We have reviewed and updated our working practices and procedures following the High Court judgment in *Nicolson v Tottenham Magistrates (2015)*'

Can you please clarify in what ways the council has updated its working practices?

Response:

The Council has undertaken a review of court costs following the High Court judgment in *Nicolson v Tottenham Magistrates (2015)*. The Council makes application for costs reasonably incurred in accordance with regulations.

Officers representing the Council make a complaint before a Magistrates Court to request the issue of a summons and apply for costs reasonable incurred of £40.00. If the Council Tax remains unpaid and officers proceed to apply for a Liability Order before a Magistrates Court, officers apply for costs reasonably incurred of £29.00. A breakdown showing how the costs have been calculated is available for the Magistrates of the bench to consider.

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact the Head of Corporate Governance, Rutland County Council, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP
You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water lane
Wilmslow, Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545700

Yours faithfully

FOI Administrator
Corporate Support Team, Rutland County Council