



26 October 2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 1352/18

Dear Sir/Madam

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

Request/ Response:

I write to make a freedom of information request concerning council tax.

- 1. Please supply a copy of your council’s procedure for dealing with unpaid council tax, including a timeline of when bailiffs are involved and bankruptcy charges filed.

Answer: Rutland County Council follows The Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 192 No 613. Typically instalments are due on the 1st of each month. If the 1st April instalment is missed a reminder will be sent mid-April, if this instalment remains unpaid a summons will be issued mid-May for a Magistrates Court Hearing in June. If a Liability Order is obtained officers may take a number of recovery options including repayment plans, attachment of earnings, attachment of benefits, referral to Civil Enforcement Agents, charging orders, commence bankruptcy proceedings or commencement of committal proceedings.

- 2. For each of the past five financial years and the year to date to 15.10.2018, please provide the number of individuals owing outstanding council tax in the following categories of arrears: £0-5k, £5k-10k, £10-15k, etc in 5k intervals up to £50k+?

Answer:

|         |                         |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 2013/14 | 81 taxpayers up to £5k  |
| 2014/15 | 119 taxpayers up to £5k |
| 2015/16 | 228 taxpayers up to £5k |
| 2016/17 | 449 taxpayers up to £5k |
| 2017/18 | 428 taxpayers up to £5k |

There were none for the following categories £5k-10k, £10-15k, etc in 5k intervals up to £50k.

- 3. Please state:
  - a. Total spend on bailiff recovery services

Answer: None



b. Total recovered council tax by bailiff providers in each of the last five financial years, and the current financial year to 15.10.18

Answer:

|         |                      |
|---------|----------------------|
| 2013/14 | £300,714.58          |
| 2014/15 | £143,518.02          |
| 2015/16 | £140,729.57          |
| 2016/17 | £100,795.05          |
| 2017/18 | £99,801.31           |
| 2018/19 | £41,681.25 (to date) |

4. Please provide a list of all bailiff companies used by your council during the period specified above.

Answer: Bristow & Sutor and Rossendales Ltd

5. Please state:

a. The number of individuals your council has brought bankruptcy charges against in each of the last five financial years, and the current financial year to 15.10.18.

Answer: In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this email message acts as a Refusal Notice.

We can confirm that we hold the information however we are unable to supply it as we consider this information to be exempt due to the low number of individuals identified.

The Council is relying on Section 40(2) – personal information in that it believes the exemption applies because the information is personal information and we believe that disclosure would not be fair or lawful because it would breach the first data protection principle as outlined in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998. We consider that these individuals would have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

b. Please state how many of these bankruptcy charges that were successful

Answer: See answer to Q5a.

c. Please provide a list of all administration companies used by your council for the specified period?

Answer: Ward Hadaway

d. Please state the total spend by your council on administration companies for the specified period.

Answer: Zero

e. Please state the total cost recovered following a successful bankruptcy charge.

Answer: The insolvency practitioner recovers their own costs.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact the Data Protection Officer, 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  
Business Support Team  
Rutland County Council