



**Core Services Directorate
Finance**
Neil Copley, Service Director

Jedidajah Otte
What Do They Know
By email: request-590440-
afc7f9d2@whatdotheyknow.com

My Ref: FOIA4158
Your Ref:
Date: 10 September 2019
Enquiries to: Cathryn Copley
Direct Dial: 01226 787743
E-Mail: Informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Reference: FOIA4158

Dear Jedidajah,

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the Core Services Directorate has now completed its search for the information which you requested by e-mail on 18 July 2019.

Your questions and my findings are below:-

1) How many court summons and liability orders have been issued by your council for unpaid council tax in the year

- a) 2016
- b) 2017
- c) 2018
- d) 2019 (so far)?

Year	Court Summons	Liability Orders
2016/17	21,726	15,542
2017/18	20,789	15,254
2018/19	21,735	14,326
2019/20	11,201	7,272

2) How many of these were successful in

- a) 2016
- b) 2017
- c) 2018
- d) 2019?

– We do not hold this information electronically and as this would require a manual search of all the records held for each year it would take over 18 hours of staff time to search for this data. There are 12 reports for each year and every report holds thousands of records.

I have decided to refuse to provide this information under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. This is because it is estimated that the time taken to provide the information would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act is a provision which allows a public authority to refuse to comply with the request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed a set limit known as the appropriate limit. In this case it is estimated that to search for the information you have

requested would take more than 18 hours, equivalent to a cost of £450 and this is the basis of the decision.

3) How many summons and liability orders were issued for late council tax payments of

a) under £50

aa) in 2016

bb) in 2017

cc) in 2018

dd) in 2019

- Please see my response for question 2

b) under £30

aa) in 2016

bb) in 2017

cc) in 2018

dd) in 2019?

- Please see my response for question 2

c) under £10

aa) in 2016

bb) in 2017

cc) in 2018

dd) in 2019?

- None , as the minimum balance for a summons is £25.00

4) What was the overall cost in £ to your council for all unsuccessful summons and liability orders made in

a) 2016

b) 2017

c) 2018

d) 2019 (so far)?

- Please see my response for question 2.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Cathryn Copley on (01226) 787743. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Customer Feedback, Information & Improvement Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:-

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Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
website address: <http://www.ico.org.uk>

Yours sincerely



Neil Copley
Service Director - Finance

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