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Fax:
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Your ref:
Our ref:
Our Ref: 8767093



02-NOV-11

Dear D. Evans

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT – REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Your request for information on Council tax summonses and liability orders, received on 05-OCT-2011, has been considered.

Please find enclosed the requested information.

Your Request: Please could you supply information on the number of Summonses and Liability Orders issued by the Council in respect of Council Tax, for each of the financial years since April 1992 (or from when records are available) to the present, itemised separately by year and document type, and the total fees charged for each year (specifically for the two documents – NOT the Council Tax), again itemised separately by year and document type. Could you also please specify the charges for Council Tax summonses and liability orders for each of the years.

Our Response: We are able to provide information for 2009/2010 and 2010/11

2009/10					
Summonses Issued	23,758	Costs for each summons	£30	Total sums charged	£712,740
Liability order Issued	15,722	Costs for each Liability Order	£25	Total sums charged	£393,050
2010/11					
Summonses Issued	24,422	Costs for each summons	£30	Total sums charged	£732,660
Liability order Issued	19,006	Costs for each Liability Order	£25	Total sums charged	£475,150

We are unable to provide the information for prior to 2009 because there would have been 7 different systems operating. On the 1st April 2009, the seven district councils and the county council merged to become one new unitary authority.

A historical search, back to 1992, would require going through records associated with the 7 district councils. At the same time, we would have to review how each

Council operated because they had different approaches to issuing summonses and liability orders. Therefore, to search the historical records on the various systems would exceed the appropriate limit of £450, as set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (appropriate limit and fees) Regulations 2004. We are therefore refusing your request under s.12 of the FOIA. However, to help answer some of your request, we have supplied the information we hold since 2009.

I hope that this information is of assistance, however, if you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact:

The Information Management Team
Durham County Council
Assistant Chief Executive's Office
Room 4/140
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UF
Tel: 0191 372 8371
Email: xxx@xxxxxx.xxx.uk

After you have exhausted our internal appeals procedure you also have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 745
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: enquiries@ico.gsi.gov.uk

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Yours sincerely

Information Management Team