

Joanna Morris  
Email: request-567782-  
7c5784f7@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref : JDJ/FOI/232/19  
Your Ref :  
Date : 17 April 2019  
Ask For : Joan Jones  
Ext : 1601  
Email : [joan.jones@ambervalley.gov.uk](mailto:joan.jones@ambervalley.gov.uk)

Dear Ms Morris

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information**

Thank you for your email received 12 April 2019 requesting the following information:-

“1. How many unpaid council tax reminders were sent to councillors elected in your authority between 2015/16 and 2017/18? Please break down by financial year?  
2. How many councillors were summonsed to court or given summary warrants in the same period? Again, please break down by financial year.  
3a. How many reminders were issued to the councillors named? Please break down by year.  
3b. For each instance, please provide the name of each councillor, the party they represent or represented at the time and the amount of council tax owed according to sums requested in the letter. Please also provide the amount of council tax that remains outstanding.  
3c. Please also state for each councillor, whether they were barred from voting on the council's budget as a result of their council tax arrears and whether any summons received resulted in a court hearing going ahead.”

### **Our obligation**

The Council is treating your request as having been made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the “Act”).

When dealing with requests for information, the Council’s obligations include:

- (1) confirming or denying whether it holds information of the description specified in the request; and

- (2) Communicating the information requested to the applicant. You should note that this is effectively a decision that the information can be released into the public domain and not simply to the specific applicant.

Under the Act, the Council is required to release any information that it holds to you unless an exemption applies.

### **Response to your request**

I confirm that the information requested is held and I can give you the following: -

Please see the attached Excel spreadsheet. As no Councillor was more than 2 months in arrears, their voting rights were not affected.

The Councillor who received a Summons in 2016/17 cleared the amount immediately and a liability order was not sought. Any Court lists would show that the amount owing was £0.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you may ask the Council for an internal review of the decision within 20 working days. Someone other than the person who took the initial decision will conduct the internal review. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Civic Links and FOI Officer at the above address. If, following the internal review, you are still not happy with the outcome; you have the right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliff House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Tel: 01625 545 745  
Fax: 01625 524 510  
Email: [mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk)

If you have any further queries, please contact me either in writing at the above address or by telephone on 01773 841601 and quote your ID No 232/19.

To help us to improve the quality of our responses to future Freedom of Information requests, any feedback you may have on this response would be appreciated. A copy of the Council's Customer Comments leaflet is attached to assist you.

Yours sincerely

Joan D Jones (Mrs)  
Civic Links & FOI Officer