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Telephone: 01636 655216/7
Email: freedom@nsdc.info

Your ref:
Our ref: **RFI-2019-0817**

26 July 2019

Dear Sir or Madam

Request for information: RFI-2019-0817

Your request for information about Court summons over paid council tax has now been considered.
The information held by the Council relevant to your request is set out 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)?

If your council is covering several councils/districts, please answer for all of them.

Year	Summonses	Liability Orders
2016/17	5706	3801
2017/18	5201	3805
2018/19	5975	4756
2019/20 (to date)	2628	1361

2) How many of these were successful in

a) 2016

b) 2017

c) 2018

d)

2019?

When a summons is issued an application is made for a liability order to be issued by the Magistrates Court. If the application is successful then a liability order is issued. This question seems to be asking how many summonses were successful in that a liability order was issued. This information has been provided in question 1.

If the question means how many liability orders resulted in the balance on the account being

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reduced to a £0.00 we do not keep this information as other factors such as payments of Local Council Tax Support and reductions in charge are often involved.

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

b) under £30

aa) in 2016

bb) in 2017

cc) in 2018

dd) in 2019?

c) under £10

aa) in 2016

bb) in 2017

cc) in 2018

dd) in 2019?

The summons costs are £80 so we would never issue a summons for less than this amount. The answer to each of the above is 0.

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)?

Note, do not include working hours/resources etc in these costs, by costs I refer solely to fees directly arising from the use of the public courts system.

If your council is covering several councils/districts, please answer for all of them.

The magistrates Court charge 10 pence per summons issued

Year	Summonses	Charge (10 pence each)
2016/17	5706	£571
2017/18	5201	£520
2018/19	5975	£598
2019/20	2628	£263

These costs were for the total number of summons issued. Please note our response to question 2 which indicates that we are unable to identify those which did not result in a £0.00 balance.

This request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

This response refers to information held by Newark & Sherwood District Council and does not include information relating to the Council's housing stock or the management of that stock. This information is held by a wholly owned arm's length company, Newark and Sherwood Homes Ltd,

which for the purposes of Freedom of Information, is classed as a separate public body. Newark and Sherwood Homes Ltd can be contacted via their website at www.nshomes.co.uk

Where provided, the direct contact details of individual Council officers must not be used for the purposes of direct marketing.

If you have any further queries or concerns about the information provided please do not hesitate to contact us. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, starting the day after the date of this letter, we will consider the request closed.

If following our response to your query you are still dissatisfied you have the right to request an internal review. This will be conducted by a member of the Senior Leadership Team who has not been involved with the request or complaint until this point. Should you wish to proceed to this stage please advise us quoting the reference number at the top of this page.

Should you be dissatisfied with the outcome of any internal review to the Council you have a further right of appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office, details of which can be found on the Information Commissioner's website www.ico.org.uk/

More details of this complaints process are available to view on our website at the following link: www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/yourcouncil/makingarequestforinformation/accesstoinformation-complaintsprocedure/

Yours sincerely

David Clarke

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clarke', followed by a period.

Information Governance Officer