

Mr Phil Spring

Gary Davies
Tel: 0151-934-4501
Email: replytoxxxx@xxxxxx.xxx.x
Date: 19 September 2019

Our reference: 3010713

Dear Mr Spring

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information that was received on 11 September 2019.

Questions with answers in bold

I attach an analysis which hopefully gives some of the information required. Some points to note:

- 1) I haven't been able to split Council Tax and Business Rates debts between under and over 90 days old –the vast majority is raised at the start of the financial year though.
- 2) For Housing Benefits we can only split the debt that has been invoiced for

How much provision was made for bad debt for 2019/20? **The analysis shows the provisions as at 31st March 2019 – calculations for 2019/2020 won't be undertaken until after the end of the financial year.**
What was that figure based on? **Generally based on age with additional assumptions around recoverability where applicable.**

How much debt was outstanding at the 31st March 2019? See analysis.

What proportion of the debts were related to: **See analysis (I've just shown the sundry debts relating to staff and property as a note).**

Council Tax arrears?

NNDR arrears?

Housing/Council Benefit overpayments?

Commercial property?

Staff overpayments?

Sundry debts?

How much of that debt was more than 90 days old? **See analysis (with exceptions).**

How much of that debt was more than 1 year old? **See analysis (with exceptions).**

How much of that debt was more than 2 years old? **See analysis (with exceptions).**

How much of outstanding debts was written off at 31st March 2019 as un-recoverable? **See analysis for debt written-off during 2018/2019.**

Does the Council have a corporate debt recovery policy? **Yes**

Does the council maintain a central database of debts? **No**

Does the council operate a data matching service for debtors names and addresses? **No**

Has the council centralised arrangements for raising of debts? **No**

Has the council centralised arrangements for pursuing debts? **No**

Has the council appointed a debt collection agency for debts? **Yes**

Does the council factor debts? **No**

What action is taken to prevent debts arising? **Referring charge payers to Citizens Advice and Debt Advice Agencies**

Please quote the reference number 3010713 in any future communications about this request.

Section 17 (7) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act states that public authorities must provide applicants with details of how they may complain about the handling of their request for information should they wish to. If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been dealt with then you can request an internal review within 40 days of receiving our response. This should be directed to the Information Management and Governance Lead, 1st Floor, Magdalen House, 30 Trinity Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 3NJ or email: info.inxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx.xxx

Should you choose to request a review of the decision taken and are dissatisfied following the authority's review, you are entitled under Section 17 (7) (b) of the Act to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision notice. Further information can be found at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.org.uk

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours sincerely

Gary Davies
Principal Revenues Manager

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