



HER MAJESTY'S
COURTS SERVICE
hmcs

Deputy Justices' Clerk
Miss Thirza Mullins

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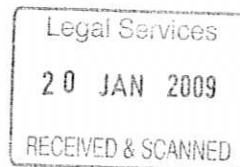
www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk

Our ref: TJM/nd

Your ref:

Mr M Hynes
Directorate of Legal & Democratic Services
London Borough of Lambeth
DX 132672 Brixton 2

19 January 2009



Dear Mr Hynes

**Re: Level of Summons Costs for London Borough of Lambeth Council Tax
Summonses**

I write further to your letters of the 26th September and 29th December and our subsequent e-mail exchange concerning the increase in council tax summons costs for Lambeth.

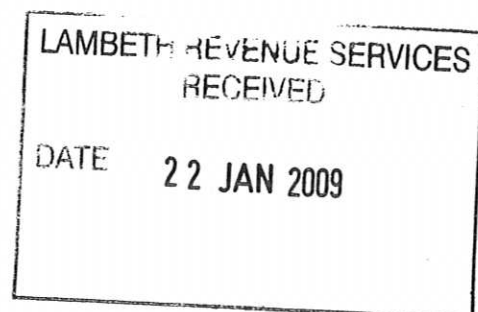
The designated District Judge and Bench Chairman have now considered your claim to increase costs. They noted that your costs had not been increased since April 2006 and the calculations you had detailed reflecting increased costs to yourselves. They also however noted with concern that the increase was a significant inflationary one in the current economic climate.

In all the circumstances they have decided to agree to the increase in costs which may be claimed on each summons. However they would hope that the council will consider carefully the cases they bring to court in light of the current economic circumstances and be particularly sensitive to the financial circumstances of those households who have previously been good payers but may temporarily be experiencing financial difficulties.

I hope this information is of assistance and I apologise for the delay in the making of this decision.

Yours sincerely

Miss Thirza Mullins
Deputy Justices' Clerk
Direct Line: 020 7805 9801
Email: thirza.mullins@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk



Your ref:

Our ref:

26 September 2008

Chief Clerk
Camberwell Magistrates' Court
15 D'Eynsford Road
Camberwell Green
London
SE5 7UP



Level of summons costs for London borough of Lambeth Council Tax summonses

Dear Sir

As you will be aware, in previous years, the level of costs charged for Council Tax summonses and liability orders by London Boroughs were agreed centrally between the magistrates' courts and the London Revenues Group (LRG).

In May of this year, the notified all London Boroughs that they should agree these costs with their own individual magistrate court.

Therefore, I am writing to you to notify you that the London Borough of Lambeth will be raising the level of costs charged for their Council Tax summonses and liability orders from £90 and £5 to £122 and £5 respectively. This will result in the overall cost of recovery action for the non-payment of Council Tax to rise from £95 to £127.

I have attached a summary calculation showing how this level of costs has been reached. It should also be noted that part of the reason for this rise is due to the delay in the magistrates' central forum making a decision on the previous application from the LRG for an increase in the level of these costs. In fact these costs have not increased since April 2006.

For your information, I am aware that other London Boroughs have agreed the following levels with their courts

Barking & Dagenham £123
Harrow £130
Islington £125
Lewisham £125

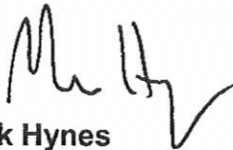
London Borough of Lambeth
Legal Services
Lambeth Town Hall
London SW2 1RW
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And that other Boroughs are in the process of notifying their courts of their new levels.

I trust that the above fully explains the situation and I look forward to confirmation that Camberwell Magistrate's court will agree to this new level of costs.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Hynes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Hynes
Director of Legal & Democratic Services
Direct Line: 020 792 62209
Email: mhynes@lambeth.gov.uk

Enc

Calculation of Court Cost for 2008-09

Notices sent out during year			Cost of Recovery	
Type of notice	No.	%	CTAX Budget	
Initial bill	128,240	22%		£3,595,700.94
One off billing	230,552	40%	Ratio of recovery action	38%
Reminders	102,913	18%		
Finals	60,423	10%	Cost of Receovery	£1,360,929.91
Summonses	29,378	5%		
Liability Orders	25,783	4%	Magistrate court fee	3
			Estimate number of summonses issued	29,378
Total Notices	577,289	100%	Total estimate cost of magistrate fee	£88,134.00
Recovery Notices	218,497	38%		
			Total cost of recovery	£1,449,063.91

Cost of individual summons and LO cost

Type	No.	% actually charged	% in year collection	No of summonses collected against	Value of Costs to be charged
Summons cost	29,378	65%	60%	11,457	£122.00
LO cost	25,783	65%	60%	10,055	£5.00
					£127.00
					£1,397,805.24
					£50,276.85
					£1,448,082.09