

18 September 2019

Our ref: 5567913

Thank you for your request received on 21 August 2019, for the following information:

We are asking for information for the period 01/4/18 to 31/3/19 (18/19).

- 1. How many liability order proceedings for non-payment of council tax were commenced in 18/19?**
- 2. What was the mean average value of council tax owed for the proceedings commenced as identified in question 1?**
- 3. In 18/19 against how many people did the local authority commence committal proceedings with regard to unpaid council tax?**
- 4. In 18/19 against how many people did the local authority seek attachment of earnings orders to collect unpaid council tax?**
- 5. In how many cases were these attachment orders successfully made?**
- 6. In 18/19 against how many people did the local authority seek to collect payments directly from welfare benefits paid by the DWP with regard to unpaid council tax?**
- 7. In how many cases were these requests for deductions from benefits successfully made?**
- 8. In 18/19 how many people did the local authority commence proceedings to make someone bankrupt due to council tax arrears?**
- 9. What was the mean average level of council tax debt for all the people against whom these bankruptcy proceedings were successful?**
- 10. In how many cases was the bankruptcy successfully made?**
- 11. What were the total additional charges added to the debt as a result of these successful bankruptcy proceedings including fees charged by the Insolvency Service and Insolvency Practitioners?**
- 12. In 18/19 how many times did the council instruct a bailiff to collect council tax arrears subject to a liability order?**
- 13. What was the mean average level of the debts that led to these instructions to bailiffs?**
- 14. What was the outcome of the council tax committal proceedings identified in question 3?**
- 15. How many people were committed to prison for non-payment of council tax in 18/19?**
- 16. What was the overall total number of days served in prison by all of the people committed to prison for non-payment of council tax owed to the local authority in 18/19?**
- 17. How many people were subject to a suspended committal order due to non-payment of council tax in 18/19?**
- 18. How many people subject to a suspended committal order in 18/19 were subsequently committed to prison because they did not comply with the terms**

of the suspended order?

19. How many people subject to a suspended committal order before 18/19 for non-payment of council tax were committed to prison in 18/19 because they did not comply with the terms of the suspended order?

20. In how many cases did the people subject to a committal order in 18/19 clear the debt and avoid imprisonment?

21. In how many cases did the people subject to a committal order in 18/19 and imprisoned subsequently clear the debt and so reduced their prison term?

22. In how many cases did people subject to a suspended committal order in 18/19 maintain the required payments for the duration of the order or to date?

23. What was the total amount of council tax arrears owed by people subject to council tax committal proceedings in 18/19 when the proceedings commenced?

24. Total amount of council tax arrears remitted by the local authority in 18/19 under section 13A of the local government act?

25. Total amount of council tax arrears remitted by the magistrates

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below

We are asking for information for the period 01/4/18 to 31/3/19 (18/19).

1. How many liability order proceedings for non-payment of council tax were commenced in 18/19?

Answer: 19,442

2. What was the mean average value of council tax owed for the proceedings commenced as identified in question 1?

Answer: £1,260.47

3. In 18/19 against how many people did the local authority commence committal proceedings with regard to unpaid council tax?

Answer: 24

4. In 18/19 against how many people did the local authority seek attachment of earnings orders to collect unpaid council tax?

Answer: 1,621

5. In how many cases were these attachment orders successfully made?

Answer: No figures available as many would be part of multiple summonsed years

6. In 18/19 against how many people did the local authority seek to collect payments directly from welfare benefits paid by the DWP with regard to unpaid council tax?

Answer: 372

7. In how many cases were these requests for deductions from benefits successfully made?

Answer: No figures available as many would be part of multiple summonsed years

8. In 18/19 how many people did the local authority commence proceedings to make someone bankrupt due to council tax arrears?

Answer: 1

9. What was the mean average level of council tax debt for all the people against whom these bankruptcy proceedings were successful?

Answer: £6,564.00

10. In how many cases was the bankruptcy successfully made?

Answer: Nil

11. What were the total additional charges added to the debt as a result of these successful bankruptcy proceedings including fees charged by the Insolvency Service and Insolvency Practitioners?

Answer: Nil

12. In 18/19 how many times did the council instruct a bailiff to collect council tax arrears subject to a liability order?

Answer: 8,680

13. What was the mean average level of the debts that led to these instructions to bailiffs?

Answer: £894.00

14. What was the outcome of the council tax committal proceedings identified in question 3?

Answer: 14 paid, 4 withdrawn, 8 arrest warrants granted

15. How many people were committed to prison for non-payment of council tax in 18/19?

Answer: None

16. What was the overall total number of days served in prison by all of the people committed to prison for non-payment of council tax owed to the local authority in 18/19?

Answer: None

17. How many people were subject to a suspended committal order due to non-payment of council tax in 18/19?

Answer: None

18. How many people subject to a suspended committal order in 18/19 were subsequently committed to prison because they did not comply with the terms of the suspended order?

Answer: None

19. How many people subject to a suspended committal order before 18/19 for non-payment of council tax were committed to prison in 18/19 because they did not comply with the terms of the suspended order?

Answer: None

20. In how many cases did the people subject to a committal order in 18/19 clear the debt and avoid imprisonment?

Answer: None

21. In how many cases did the people subject to a committal order in 18/19 and imprisoned subsequently clear the debt and so reduced their prison term?

Answer: None

22. In how many cases did people subject to a suspended committal order in 18/19 maintain the required payments for the duration of the order or to date?

Answer: None

23. What was the total amount of council tax arrears owed by people subject to council tax committal proceedings in 18/19 when the proceedings commenced?

Answer: £121,822.00

24. Total amount of council tax arrears remitted by the local authority in 18/19 under section 13A of the local government act?

Answer: £112,996.27

25. Total amount of council tax arrears remitted by the magistrates

Answer: Nil

Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.