



**Information Governance  
Team**

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06 August 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)  
Request ID: FOI339617588**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Council Tax Enforcement.

You have requested the following information:

**Please provide information relating to council tax arrears over the 24-month period starting on 1 January 2019 and ending on 1 January 2021 broken down by calendar year. We have chosen this period to give us a comparison before and after the start of the coronavirus pandemic.**

**Our overall request is for information relating to council tax arrears. You will find the detailed information we are requesting in the numbered questions in our original request, and you will note that we requested this numbered information broken down by gender and by year.**

**1. How many households were in Council Tax arrears?**

2019 – 35,303

2020 – 34,510

**2. How many liability orders were issued for unpaid council tax?**

2019 – 20,122

2020 – 6,135

**3. How many council tax debts were referred to bailiffs?**

2019 – 13,064

2020 – 5,030

**4. Against how many people were committal proceedings with regard to unpaid council tax commenced?**

**5. What were the outcomes of the council tax committal proceedings identified in question 4? Namely:**

**a. How many people were committed to prison for non-payment of council tax?**

**b. 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?**

**c. How many people were subject to a suspended committal order?**

**d. How many people subject to a suspended committal order in this year were subsequently committed to prison because they did not comply with the terms of the suspended order?**

**e. In how many cases did the people subject to a committal order clear the debt and avoid imprisonment?**

**f. In how many cases did the people subject to a committal order and imprisoned clear the debt and so reduced their prison term?**

**g. In how many cases did people subject to a suspended committal order maintain the required payments for the duration of the order?**

**6. What was the total amount of council tax arrears owed by people subject to council tax committal proceedings when the proceedings commenced?**

**7. What was the total amount of council tax arrears remitted by the local authority?**

**8. What was the total amount of council tax arrears remitted by the magistrates' court for your local authority?**

**9. What was the total cost to your local authority of all committal proceedings for non-payment of council tax? Please explain how you have calculated this.**

For Questions 4 to 9, please see the attached documents.

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For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email [icocasework@ico.org.uk](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk).

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**

23/01/2019	13/02/2019	24/04/2019	05/06/2019	04/09/2019	23/10/2019	13/11/2019	04/03/2020
£1,196.82	£3,840.07	£2,496.01	£3,115.78	£2,536.79	£1,786.24	£1,126.17	£1,116.52
£1,976.81	£3,257.57	£4,865.47	£2,128.09	£3,546.00	£1,420.89	£1,847.11	£1,169.61
£2,340.07	£3,701.70	£4,104.60	£1,003.19	£3,007.28	£3,699.34	£4,186.81	£2,435.64
£1,664.85	£3,400.94	£3,210.86	£1,145.80	£2,784.42	£1,073.62	£6,970.20	£1,260.50
£3,649.22	£1,809.02	£2,259.25	£1,211.75	£4,274.27	£4,865.76	£2,649.24	£3,724.94
£2,175.67	£4,055.99	£4,595.29	£803.14	£4,989.55	£966.54	£3,651.05	£4,598.28
£3,364.12	£3,989.64	£2,310.20	£3,163.54	£3,056.92	£3,468.94	£3,208.24	£2,411.04
£1,682.00	£2,088.61	£4,204.13	£1,787.00	£4,459.77	£3,708.53	£2,525.96	£3,349.56
£2,427.19	£5,787.86	£3,861.62	£1,469.59	£2,533.24	£5,116.81	£1,101.88	£1,681.26
£799.25	£4,321.11	£3,804.73	£2,130.32	£926.75	£1,321.77	£5,261.04	£3,799.73
£1,460.41	£4,384.46	£2,294.38	£2,834.76	£1,725.30	£2,625.26	£1,370.78	
£910.59		£917.86	£1,340.29	£2,625.92	£1,300.96		
£1,696.09		£3,313.52	£2,371.14	£3,535.42	£1,420.67		
				£4,099.81	£1,579.73		
				£821.93			
£25,343.09	£40,636.97	£42,237.92	£24,504.39	£44,923.37	£34,355.06	£33,898.48	£25,547.08
£65,980.06				£205,466.30			

## Local Taxation Committal Cases

Period (financial)	01/01/19 - 31/03/19	01/04/19 - 31/03/20	01/04/20 - 01/01/21
	26 summonses - 11 males 15 females	94 summonses - 45 males 49 females	
Committal proceedings commenced			0
Committted to prison		0 1 female	0
Total days served		0 9 days	0
		18 orders - 9 males 9 females	
Suspended committal orders	6 orders - 4 males 2 females		0
Committal orders imposed due to non payment for the cases listed on line 7		0	0
Paid in full cases for the cases listed on line 7		0 2 - 2 males	0
How many people were imprisoned & cleared their debt on line 7		0	0
How many people have maintained their payments on line 7	2 - 2 males	5 - 1 male 4 females	0
Total amount of Council Tax owed in proceedings on line 7 cases	£65,980.06	£205,466.30	0
Total amount of Council Tax remitted by the local authority on line 7 cases	£1,154,156.87	£2,002,175	0
Total amount of Council Tax remitted by the Magistrates Court on line 7 cases	£2,383.03	£7,549.99	0
Total costs of committal proceedings on line 4 cases	£6,370.00	£23,030.00	0

Line 9 - the orders are still live and either being paid but not in full as yet or due to be breached as they are not paying their court order