

Please provide the following for each of the financial years 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022, and 2022/2023 so far (from the beginning of the current financial year until 15 November 2022):

1) Number of households in council tax arrears

This information is not currently recorded and can only be reported accurately as of the date it has been run. As of 30.11.22 the total number of accounts which hold arrears of £10 or more across all financial years is 21,929 with a total value of £23,575,533.19 (some customers/households who have more one than one account number will be counted more than once in these numbers)

Arrears are reported as anything that has fallen due prior to 30.11.22 but remains outstanding as at 30.11.22

2) The total amount of council tax owed by these households

£23,575,533.19

3) The number of cases of council tax debt passed to bailiffs (note these are also called 'enforcement agents') and the overall amount of council tax which was owed (just in relation to the cases which were passed to bailiffs)

Year	CTAX LO's referred	Value	Recovered
2019/20	14369	£7,790,063.56	£1,256,752.47
2020/21	0	0	£254,465.95
2021/22	4067	£2,703,007.11	£181,816.31
2022/23	6783	£4,925,497.33	£333,252.98
Totals	25219	£15,418,568.00	£2,026,287.71

The above are details of cases referred to our external enforcement agents up to 31 October 2022. Figures are recorded for a full month at the start of each month.

The above figures do not include cases that have been through our internal enforcement agents as we cannot accurately report on this data.

The above figures reflect the suspension on recovery due to Covid and the resumption process. The figures sent to enforcement agents for 21/22 and 22/23 reflect the resumption of action through enforcement agents and the way we had to resume action on cases that were with enforcement agents pre Covid.

These numbers may contain duplicate liability orders i.e. where a liability order is returned due to a debtor absconding, the case may be referred again at a later date if a forwarding address is found and attempts to contact the debtor/collect the monies due are unsuccessful.

- 4) Total amount recovered by bailiffs

Please refer to the table in Question 3.

- 5) The total amount in bailiff fees and court costs added to these council tax arrears

Each LO sent to our enforcements agents would have had summons costs of £62.50. Based on the above this would total £1,576,187.50. However, as advised above, the figures above may include duplicate data. Also fees are subject to change if something comes to light which may mean they need to be removed or changed.

Please see below for bailiff fees added, please note this does not include Internal Enforcement fees and may include duplicates as stated above. This also reflects the suspension on Enforcement due to Covid measures and the resumption process:

Year	Fees
2019/2020	£770,814.15
2020/2021	£0.00
2021/2022	£607,951.96
2022/2023	£404,084.52
Totals	£1,782,850.63

- 6) The names of enforcement agencies employed by the council. (If multiple, please detail % split of cases allocated if the information is available)

Bristow & Sutor
Rundles
Marstons (previously Rossendales)
Wigan Council – Internal Enforcement Agents

- 7) How much are the fees that can be added on to council tax debts to cover bailiff and court order costs, and how are these calculated? (Is there a percentage or flat fee?)

Compliance (administration) £75.00

Enforcement £235.00 (additional fee - 7.5% of any amount over £1500)

Removal/Disposal of goods £110.00 (additional fee - 7.5% of any amount over £1500)

- 8) Number of bankruptcy proceedings started against individuals who owe you council tax

We have not started any bankruptcy proceedings against individuals for unpaid council tax for the financial years queried.