

## Request

This FoIA request relates to the £150 energy bill support payments (sometimes called a 'council tax rebate') issued to Council Tax band A-D households in your area as at 1 April 2022. Further information is here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-council-tax-rebate-2022-23-billing-authority-guidance/support-for-energy-bills-the-council-tax-rebate-2022-23-billing-authority-guidance>

On 2 September 2022, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities reminded local authorities in England to place any unclaimed "core" £150 payments onto council tax accounts for eligible households. This allowed for payment after the "core" scheme closed. See the section titled "*Crediting council tax accounts*" here:

[https://web.archive.org/web/20221116231926/https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1102995/220902\\_Final\\_CT\\_Rebate\\_CTIL-next\\_steps\\_for\\_Sept\\_2022\\_update.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20221116231926/https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1102995/220902_Final_CT_Rebate_CTIL-next_steps_for_Sept_2022_update.pdf)

The questions below only relate to the "core/main" £150 scheme. No information is required concerning the separate "discretionary" schemes.

- 1) For properties where you are the local council, how many properties have an unclaimed "core" £150 on their council tax account?
- 2) How many of the properties in "1)" had at least one individual in council tax exemption class **N** as at 1 April 2022?
- 3) For properties where you are the local council, how many were recorded as a Home in Multiple Occupation (HMO) for planning purposes but not for council tax purposes as at 1 April 2022? If such data are not available, how many are currently classed as such?
- 4) How many of these properties in "3)" have an unclaimed "core" £150 on their council tax account and had at least one individual in council tax exemption class **N** as at 1 April 2022?
- 5) What decision(s) has the council made regarding distribution of these unclaimed "core" £150 payments to the eligible 1 April 2022 occupants?

Please provide this information above as at 31 March 2023.

If time allows, please also provide the above information as at 30 November 2022.

## Response

- 1) Data not held, unclaimed rebate payments were paid onto customers accounts prior to the scheme closure date in September 2022, some have reduced ongoing payments due, some have been rolled forward to 23/24, some have been refunded at the request of the customer. 8039 rebates were paid onto customers accounts in September 2023 due to not being claimed at that point in time.
- 2) Of the 8039, 61 accounts had a class n exemption in place at that time.
- 3) Data not recorded
- 4) Data not recorded
- 5) Customers who had a rebate payment paid onto their account were informed of this at the time and sent a revised bill informing them of the payment, any reduced amounts payable and any resultant credits should that have arisen. Full details were provided on how to claim a refund should customers wished to do so. Should any customers wish to claim a refund of any credit sat on their Council Tax account going forward, they can do so by visiting [www.wigan.gov.uk/Counciltaxrefunds](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/Counciltaxrefunds)