



1. How many liability orders has the council sought over council tax arrears between 31 March 2023 and 31 October 2024?

23,524 liability orders were granted

2. How many of these liability orders has resulted in bailiffs being sent to collect the debt?

We do not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) relieves a public authority from the obligation to comply with a request for information where the estimated time required to locate, review and extract the information exceeds a certain threshold set out in Regulations.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/3244) set out the rules in relation to the cost limit (otherwise called the "appropriate limit"). These Regulations are published by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) and are viewable on their web site from this link: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/uksi_20043244_en.pdf

The Regulations set out the cost limit for Government departments and for other public authorities. For local government, Regulation 3 states that the cost limit is £450 and Regulation 4(4) states that the prescribed hourly rate is £25. Regulation 4(4) further provides that where the local authority estimates the time taken to gather the information would exceed this limit (which based on the prescribed hourly rate, equates to 18 officer hours), it may refuse the request under section 12 of FOIA.

I am satisfied the cost limit applies to your request and will explain why this is the case.

Liability Orders issued to Enforcement Agents are recorded in numbers issued per month, they are not recorded against the date of when the Liability Order was obtained therefore we cannot provide the numbers of Liability Orders issued to External Enforcement agents isolated to Liability Orders obtained between 31 March 2023 and 31 October 2024 without checking each case.

To check 23,524 records at 3 minutes per case would take 1,176 hours and therefore be in excess of the time limits permitted for an FOI.