



**Wigan[♥]
Council**

Please provide the following details regarding payments for Business Rates and Council Tax refunds:

1. The sort code and account number from which refunds for Business Rates and Council Tax are paid.

We can confirm that we hold the information you requested however are refusing to provide you with the information as we consider an exemption under Section 31 of the Act applies.

Section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states that the information is exempt from disclosure if disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. As disclosure under the FoIA is deemed to be to the world at large, we believe that the exemption is engaged in respect of providing the sort code and account number from which refunds for Business Rates and Council Tax are paid.

Disclosing the sort code and account number used for issuing refunds would expose the council to a significant risk of fraud and financial crime. This information could be used maliciously to impersonate the council or redirect payments, thereby compromising the security of public funds.

This exemption is subject to a public interest test. While we recognise the general public interest in transparency and accountability, we believe that in this case, the public interest in preventing crime and protecting public funds outweighs the interest in disclosure.

2. The exact wording that appears on payments issued from your bank accounts (e.g., CX190707 BURNLEY BOROUGH CO 40151791206850).
3. The contact telephone number and email address for your Council Tax and Business Rates teams.
4. The contact telephone number and email address for your Accounts Payable/Finance teams.

WMBC Creditors

Council Tax: 01942 489001
Revenues@wigan.gov.uk

Business Rates: 01942 489001
Businessrates@wigan.gov.uk

Accounts Payable: 01942 827557
fitdcp@wigan.gov.uk