

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

1. Is the council planning to make any changes (other than non-financial changes, e.g. changes in terminology) to its Council Tax Benefit (CTB) system under Council Tax Support (CTS) from April 2013?

Yes

If the answer to 1) is 'No', the council need not fulfil the remainder of this request. Otherwise, please continue.

2. What is the maximum percentage of a working age CTS claimant's council tax bill that will be funded under the chosen/preferred CTS scheme? For example, if the maximum CTS payment will be for 75% of a council tax bill, please give 75% as the answer. This excludes any exemptions for defined vulnerable groups (e.g. disability benefit claimants).

80% of the Band B charge.

3. What is the existing in-year non-collection rate for council tax across all households (i.e. including both CTB claimants and non-claimants)? Please give this as a percentage figure – so, if 98.75% of council tax payments are made without falling into arrears during the financial year, please give 1.25% as the response to this question. The council may use figures for the last completed financial year; please do not use figures that include 2012/13 council tax payments that have not yet fallen due within the definition of 'non-collection'.

3.6% (£3.037m not collected)

4. What is the (estimated or confirmed) forecast in-year non-collection rate for council tax charged to CTB claimants under the council's proposed CTS scheme for 2013/14? In other words, a non-collection rate specific to claimants under the CTS scheme, and excluding non-claimants – the preference would be for a figure specific to working age CTS claimants, but if that is not available, a figure for all CTS claimants will suffice (please specify which definition applies to the council's response). Please provide both a percentage figure (i.e. the percent of all council tax due from CTS claimants that the council forecasts will not be paid within the correct financial year), and a total financial value for non-paid council tax charged to CTS claimants (e.g. £750,000).

If in doubt re 4), the council should take the amount of money it is seeking to save from the CTB system via changes to CTS (excluding any cross-subsidised savings from other measures, such as cutting second homes/empty properties council tax discounts), take the amount of money it is budgeting to receive from CTS claimants, and calculate the non-collection rate from there.

If no CTS-specific figure is available for 4), please provide a response to 5) below [if a figure for 4) has been given, please ignore 5)]:

The estimated additional amount that will be raised due to the CTS Scheme is £5.001m – of which 30% (£1.500m) is our estimated provision for non-collection.

5. Please provide a forecast in-year non-collection rate for all council tax payments for 2013/14, including those by non-CTS claimants, giving both a percentage figure and financial value, and also provide a financial value for 3) in addition to the percentage figure already requested.

The estimated non-collection rate is 3.12%, £4.730m

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use. Please be aware that any commercial or other use, for example publication, sale, or redistribution may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as amended unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission.

Not all the information that is supplied which is covered by copyright will be the Council's copyright, for example it may be the copyright of a government department or another Council. You should seek either the Council's consent or their consent as appropriate. The Council is willing to advise you of any such potential issues on request. In order to make a request to re-use the information please contact the Information Governance Manager using the details below.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

**Information Governance Manager
Information and Support
Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)
New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG**
e-mail: info.requests@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545 700

www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.