

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Council Tax Support claimant data

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

You asked:

1. How many working age people are claiming Council Tax Support (CTS)?

As at 6/10/13, there are 23,738 working age claimants.

2. What is the maximum percentage of a working age CTS claimant's council tax bill that is being funded under the council's CTS scheme for 2013/14? 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%

3. What is the current non-collection rate for council tax charged to working age CTS claimants during 2013/14? This is the non-collection rate specific to working age claimants under the CTS scheme, and excluding non-claimants. Please provide both a percentage figure (i.e. the percent of all council tax due from working age CTS claimants that has not been collected, as per the definition provided further down), and a total financial value for non-collected council tax charged to working age CTS claimants (e.g. £75,000)

To achieve this total we have added together the collective council tax debt for 2013/14 where the charge payers was a recipient of CTB last year and continue to the Council tax reduction claimants this year. And as at 30th September 2013 the debt to be collected for the entire financial year 13/14 for this group is £7.24m.

As of the 30th September 2013 this pay group have £3.270m towards the collectable debt.

So as at 30th September 2013 the un-collected debt is £0.350m which represents an underpayment of 9.67%?

Please note this cohort of payers still have the remaining 6 months of debt to pay.

These figures do, however include amounts that have been paid in full for the year.

4. What was the in-year council tax non-collection rate among Council Tax Benefit (CTB) claimants for 2012/13, as of the end of that financial year?

This information is not held by the Council. Therefore, this part of the letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held.

5. How many summons hearings for liability orders against working age CTS claimants have taken place during 2013/14 as of September 24th 2013, and how many liability orders have been granted as of that date? If the information is not available for specifically working age CTS claimants, please provide the information for all CTS claimants

We do not have the information on summons data, however, we do know where the charge payer was a recipient of CTB last year and continues to be a Council tax reduction claimant this year, there have been four hearings and 3,795 liability orders have been granted.

6. How many summons hearings for liability orders against all council tax payers have taken place during 2013/14 as of September 24th 2013, and how many liability orders have been granted as of that date?

13 hearings and 12,952 liability orders have been granted.

7. How many summons hearings for liability orders against working age CTB claimants had taken place during 2012/13 by September 24th 2012, and how many liability orders had been granted by that date? If the information is not available for specifically working age CTB claimants, please provide the information for all CTB claimants

This information is not held. Therefore, this part of the letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held by the Council.

8. How many summons hearings for liability orders against all council tax payers had taken place during 2012/13 by September 24th 2012, and how many liability orders had been granted by that date?

14 hearings and 7,151 liability orders had been granted.

9. Under what circumstances would the council seek to deduct council tax arrears from benefits paid to a CTS claimant? Does it rule out this option, or limit it to only the most extreme cases?

Where a liability order has been obtained and where the claimant has failed to make or maintain a payment arrangement directly to the council. Each case is assessed on its merits before referral.

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