

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Composition of Council Tax Summons costs

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

You asked:

"In 1997/98, Summons costs made up 0% (£0) of the total £17 charged to Council Tax payers in obtaining a Liability Order through the Magistrates Court.

In 1998/99, the ratio of the costs changed with Summons costs making up 100% (£18) of the total £18 charged to Council Tax payers.....

In 1999/00, the ratio of the costs remained unchanged with 100% of the total costs £19 being made up of the Summons costs (£19).

In 2001/02, the ratio of the costs remained unchanged with 100% of the total costs £31.65 being made up of the Summons costs (£31.65).

In 2003/04, the ratio of the costs remained unchanged with 100% of the total costs £41.80 being made up of the Summons costs (£41.80).

In 2005/06, the ratio of the costs remained unchanged with 100% of the total costs £44.20 being made up of the Summons costs (£44.20).

In 2006/07, the ratio of the costs remained unchanged with 100% of the total costs £46.50 being made up of the Summons costs (£46.50).

In 2007/08, the ratio of the costs remained unchanged with 100% of the total costs £50 being made up of the Summons costs (£50).

In 2008/09, the ratio of the costs remained unchanged with 100% of the total costs £52 being made up of the Summons costs (£52).

In 2009/10, the ratio of the costs remained unchanged with 100% of the total costs £55 being made up of the Summons costs (£55).

In 2011/12, the ratio of the costs remained unchanged with 100% of the total costs £63 being made up of the Summons costs (£63).

In 2012/13, the ratio of the costs remained unchanged with 100% of the total costs £65.50 being made up of the Summons costs (£65.50).

Q. Please supply, separately and in relation to each review of the summons and liability order costs charged to individual householders in respect of council tax covering the above period;

all information you hold to justify the changes, for example the reason for any change in composition of charges, and/or increases with calculations in support of the changes.

Included in this information would be cabinet documents or similar that would have been necessary to propose the changes and subsequently agree and implement them.”

Our response:

Please find attached our costs details since 2001/02. We do not have details of costs and its composition prior to this year. 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 Leicester City Council.

All the amounts are made up of summons costs only.

Costs are set at the same level for all the Leicestershire Authorities and are authorised by the Leicester Magistrates' Court (Nick Watson, Justices' Clerk and the Chairman of the Bench). The base calculation takes place every third year and for the other two years the increase is in line with inflation. The base calculation is taken as an average from four of the Leicestershire Authorities: Leicester City, Oadby & Wigston Borough Council, Rutland and Charnwood Borough Council. Details are only available for 2011/12 and 2014/15, which are attached for Leicester City only.

The last approval from 10/03/2014 is shown below:.

Dear

I am pleased to say that I have now heard from the Chairman who is happy to approve your costs. Of course it will be open to those against whom you proceed to challenge the application in individual cases.

I apologise for the delay.

Best wishes

Nick

Nick Watson

Justices' Clerk and Secretary to the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committees for Leicestershire & Rutland, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire

Tel:

Mob:

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use, or for journalistic purposes. If the information is a dataset (which does not relate to the environment), you may also use the information for commercial re-use under an [Open Government Licence](#).

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

Information Governance Manager
Information and Support
Leicester City Council
Bosworth House
9 – 15 Princess Road West
LEICESTER LE1 6TH
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 may also seek independent advice from 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 requests until the internal appeals process of the Council has been exhausted. You are therefore advised to appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.

Enc.:

2014 06 11 WDTK 5872 Costs (Court) calc 2011-12 Leicester

2014 06 11 WDTK 5872 Costs (Court) calc 2013-14 Leicester

2014 06 11 WDTK 5872 Summons Costs - Changes