

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:

The Government is legislating to change Council Tax Benefit, forcing local authorities to consult on local schemes and reducing the overall pot of money available. A consultation took part earlier this year, in which many councils expressed concern about the plans.

I am carrying out a comprehensive survey of the impact of CTB reform.

Would you please disclose the following information to me please:

1) Any correspondence with DCLG regarding CTB reform

Please see attached.

2) Any consultation paper you have issued on CTB reform

For your information this part of the letter constitutes a refusal notice under Section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because an exemption under Section 21 of the Act is being applied, namely the information is accessible by other means.

Consultation paperwork can be accessed online by clicking the link: <http://www.leicester.gov.uk/haveyoursay/>. This will give you access to the handbook, questions, scheme design, impact table and public events calendar.

3) Any assessment you have made on the effect of localised council tax reform on council tax collection rates

Dependant of the final scheme which is adopted the impact on the council tax collection will vary. In principal the impact following the introduction of the proposed scheme in our estimation is that the collection rate may fall by 1 - 1.2%.

4) Any groups that you have intend to or have suggested protecting from the impact of CTB reform, e.g. single mothers, carers, the disabled, etc.

May I refer you to consultation paperwork. This outlines our protection for key groups in the development of the local scheme.

5) The maximum %age of council tax liabilities that you have suggested in consultation or in discussion charging current recipients, e.g. charging 25% of council tax to some groups in order to protect pensioners. You may have provided a range; if so, that will suffice.

May I refer you to the consultation paperwork. This outlines the %age of council tax liability used in the Council Tax Support calculation which we propose apply to achieve the savings & protect the pensioners.

6) Any assessment you have made of the %age of CTB recipients that are pensioners in your local authority.

16,189 claimant households are pensioners. This represents 35% of the caseload.

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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.

Yours sincerely

Lynn Wyeth
Information Governance Manager