

REQUEST	16191
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1. What is the total current value of council tax arrears owed to the council (correct as of 28th February 2024)?
2. What was the total value of council tax arrears owed to the council one year ago (28th February 2023)?
3. What was the total value of council tax arrears owed to the council five years ago (28th February 2019)?
4. How many households in your area are currently in council tax arrears (correct as of 28th February 2024)?
5. Against how many people have you brought court proceedings in order to recover council tax arrears in the past year (28th February 2023 - 28th February 2024)?
6. How many referrals have you made to bailiffs as a result of council tax arrears in the past year (28th February 2023 - 28th February 2024)?

RESPONSE

This information is reported as at 1st of each month. Please be advised that arrears are defined as accounts that have Council Tax balances outstanding as at each date quoted. The below information includes accounts that are in arrears and those who have made payments arrangements to settle this, as well as accounts where the balance may not have yet fallen due but is due this financial year i.e. 12 monthly payers where payment may be due in March any date after the 1st of each month.

Please note, the figures quoted are in respect of all previous years as at the quoted date.

1. Total Council Tax owed as at 1st March 2024 is £33,014,126.74.
2. Total Council Tax owed as at 1st March 2023 was £29,353,870.80.
3. Total Council Tax owed as at 1st March 2019 was £23,175,479.58.
4. Number of households currently in arrears or with payments still due to be made are 19,482.
5. The number of summons' issued from 1st March 2023 – 1st March 2024 are 15,763.
6. We are only able to report in whole financial years.

1 April 23 to Date – 9907

Please note, cases are recorded in the form of Liability Orders issued and not based on Council Tax accounts. It is possible for an account to have multiple Liability Orders, so the above figures do not reflect the true number of accounts passed to enforcement agencies for the periods stated. The figures quoted may also contain a duplicate count of some Liability Orders, i.e. where a Liability Order is issued to an Enforcement Agent but returned for reasons such as a debtor absconding, the same Liability Order may be re-referred to an Enforcement Agent (if necessary) at a later date (if traced and there was no engagement from the debtor) and therefore would appear twice in the figures.