



My Ref: FOI 6558
Enquiries to: Information Requests
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Requester,

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

Please provide the following information for each financial year from 2021/22 to 2025/26 (or the most recent year available):

1. Liability Orders

Please provide:

- **The number of Council Tax Liability Orders that the Council applied for at the Magistrates' Court.**
- **The number of Council Tax Liability Orders granted by the Magistrates' Court.**

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Applied for:	14,290	12,351	10,005	13,246	13,941
Granted:	11,611	9,462	8,192	10,753	11,747

The “applied for” figure shows the number of accounts initially issued with a summons, while the “granted” figure shows the number remaining at the liability order hearing.

2. External Enforcement Agents (Bailiffs)

Please provide:

- **The number of Council Tax cases referred or passed to external enforcement agents (bailiffs) for collection.**
- **Where possible, a breakdown by enforcement agency used.**

2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
7,380	7,313	7,872	9,339	9,952

From 2021/22 to part way through 2024/25 we used the following enforcement agents:

Marstons Holdings plc
Jacobs Enforcement
CDER Group
Newlyn plc

From 2024/25 we use the following enforcement agents:

Jacobs Enforcement
CDER Group
Newlyn plc
Dukes Bailiffs Limited

3. Attachments to Benefits

Please provide:

- The number of Council Tax debts for which deductions were requested directly from benefits administered through Universal Credit.
- The number of Council Tax debts for which deductions were successfully made from Universal Credit.

2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
1,061	1,913	1,883	3,449	3,337

Unfortunately, we do not record the number of deductions successfully made.

4. Attachments of Earnings

Please provide:

- The number of Attachment of Earnings Orders issued in relation to Council Tax debts.
- The number of Attachment of Earnings Orders that resulted in deductions being made.

2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
498	598	874	554	553

Unfortunately, we do not record how many Attachment of Earnings Orders resulted in deductions.

5. Financial Recoveries (if available)

For each of the above enforcement methods, please provide:

- The total amount of Council Tax debt recovered.
- Any fees charged to residents through enforcement action.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Attachment of Benefits	361,261.21	304,819.80	246,122.56	273,774.59	215,714.57
Enforcement Agent Recovery	1,336,190.14	1,339,406.52	1,528,539.06	1,225,204.66	1,225,717.59

Unfortunately, we cannot provide the amounts recovered through Attachment of Earnings Orders because these are received as bank payments and cannot be distinguished from other bank payments.

We are also unable to provide any details about total fees charged by the Enforcement Agents. However below is the fee structure for Enforcement Agents.

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PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

Compliance Stage	£79.00
Enforcement Stage	£247.00 (an additional 7.5% can be charged on any portion of debt exceeding £1900)
Sale or disposal stage	£116

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Information Requests Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Email: <http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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