

Date Provided: 30 October 2018

Various Council Tax

Ref: FOI / 7943

Information Request and Response by Lewes District Council

I write to make a freedom of information request concerning council tax.

1. *Please supply a copy of your council's procedure for dealing with unpaid council tax, including a timeline of when bailiffs are involved and bankruptcy charges filed.*

<https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/council-tax/council-tax-recovery/>

2. *For each of the past five financial years and the year to date to 15.10.2018, please provide:*

The number of individuals owing outstanding council tax in the following categories of arrears:

£0-5k & combined figures

2013 - 463 -- £141,284.19

2014 - 600 – £229,582.62

2015 - 787 - £335,011.75

2016 – 1440 - £603,734.31

2017 – 2131 – £984,182.18

2018 – 1842 - £1,496,733.54

*£5k-10k, £10-15k etc. in 5k intervals up to £50k+ - **Not applicable - there were no outstanding balances greater than £5,000 in respect of any bill year***

3. *Please state:*

a) *Total spend on bailiff recovery services – **None***

- b) *Total recovered council tax by bailiff providers in each of the last five financial years, and the current financial year to 15.10.18*

2013 – £458,957.12

2014 – £441,786.81

2015 – 452,730.16

2016 – £410,447.47

2017 – £416,100.84

2018 – £244,124.00

Combined total - £2,424,146.40

4. *Please provide a list of all bailiff companies used by your council during the period specified above.*

Chandlers Certified Bailiffs, Ross & Roberts Ltd, Stanford & Green Ltd, Whyte and Co Ltd

5. *Please state:*

- a) *The number of individuals your council has brought bankruptcy charges against in each of the last five financial years, and the current financial year to 15.10.18. **None***
- b) *Please state how many of these bankruptcy charges that were successful **N/A***
- c) *Please provide a list of all administration companies used by your council for the specified period **N/A***
- d) *Please state the total spend by your council on administration companies for the specified period **N/A***
- e) *Please state the total cost recovered following a successful bankruptcy charge **N/A***