

Date Provided: 10 April 2019

## Council Tax and Universal Credit

Ref: FOI / 8778

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### Information Request and Response by Lewes District Council

*1a) In £, the total amount of Council Tax which was unpaid, by municipal year from 2012/13 and including any arrears in 2018/19 to date).*

**2012/13 - £85,383.82**  
**2013/14 - £136,574.41**  
**2014/15 - £223,095.94**  
**2015/16 - £325,345.50**  
**2016/17 - £574,274.67**  
**2017/18 - £884,319.71**  
**2018/19 - £1,625,696.20**

*1b) The total amount of Council Tax, in £, which was owed but never paid by Universal Credit claimants since 2012/13 (broken down by municipal year and including any arrears in 2018/19 to date).*

**The council does not record this information and consequently cannot report on it.**

*1c) The number of households in receipt of Universal Credit which are currently in arrears on their Council Tax.*

**The council does not record this information and consequently cannot report on it.**

*2) Since the national introduction of Universal Credit from 2013 onwards, has your authority had to reduce the number of housing officers dealing with benefits queries because of a reduction in government funding? If so, please provide figures for government funding (in £) and staffing numbers (in Full Time Equivalents) before and after these reductions.*

**Lewes District Council and Eastbourne Borough Council are currently in the process of a Joint Transformation Programme meaning their core services are being merged and role responsibilities have changed, therefore it is not possible to provide a meaningful answer to this question.**