

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/553165

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.

Bailiffs and bankruptcy charges are terms used in English law and as such don't apply to East Lothian Council's procedure for dealing with unpaid council tax.

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, £5k-10k, £10-15k, etc in 5k intervals up to £50k+?

The tables below shows the number of council tax accounts with outstanding debt grouped by the categories provided above.

Please note council tax debt is raised in full at the beginning of the financial year and paid off in instalments throughout the year, for this reason current year debt has been excluded from some of the tables.

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Combined Council Tax debt for previous 5 financial years and 2018/19 to date

Council Tax Debt	Number of accounts
£10,000 to £15,000	3
£5,000 to £10,000	307
£0.00 to £5,000	48,493
TOTAL	48,803

Combined Council Tax debt for previous 5 financial years Excluding 2018/19 debt

Council Tax Debt	Number of accounts
£10,000 to £15,000	1
£5,000 to £10,000	155
£0.00 to £5,000	7,236
TOTAL	7,392

Combined Council Tax debt for ALL previous financial years including 2018/19 debt

Council Tax Debt	Number of accounts
£10,000 to £15,000	52
£5,000 to £10,000	492
£0.00 to £5,000	52,886
TOTAL	53,430

Combined Council Tax debt for ALL previous financial years Excluding 2018/19 debt

Council Tax Debt	Number of accounts
£10,000 to £15,000	20
£5,000 to £10,000	367
£0.00 to £5,000	11,728
TOTAL	12,115

3. Please state:

- a) Total spend on bailiff recovery services
- 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

East Lothian Council doesn't use bailiff recovery services, Please see response to point 1.

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

N/A – Please see response to point 3.

5. Please state:

- a) the number of individuals your council has brought bankruptcy charges

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against in each of the last five financial years, and the current financial year to 15.10.18.

b) Please state how many of these bankruptcy charges that were successful

c) Please provide a list of all administration companies used by your council for the specified period

d) Please state the total spend by your council on administration companies for the specified period.

e) Please state the total cost recovered following a successful bankruptcy charge.

N/A – Please see response to point 1.