



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE,
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Further to your information request FOI/EIR 23/24-135, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

This request relates to enforcement agents (also known as "bailiffs") that have been used by the council.

1. (a) Between 01 January 2020 and 30 June 2023, how many times have bailiffs been deployed by the council? Please break this down by year.

(b) How many individuals does this relate to?

(c) How many companies does this relate to?

2. In cases where the council deployed bailiffs during this period (01 January 2020 and 30 June 2023) how much debt did this relate to, in total?

3. In cases where the council deployed bailiffs during this period (01 January 2020 and 30 June 2023) what was the smallest amount of debt owed by an individual?

4. Does the council directly employ its own bailiffs/ enforcement agencies, or does it use private enforcement agencies/ companies to do this work on the council's behalf?

5. Please provide the names of all bailiff / enforcement companies that have been paid by the council at any time between 01 January 2020 and 30 June 2023.

Response:

1. Council Tax:

Total of 5234 records showing as having had a "Bailiff" post liability order action between 1st January 2020 and 30th June 2023. This is broken down as follows:

01.01.2020-31.12.2020: 1428 referrals (across 886 separate accounts). Of these 886 accounts, 880 were showing as being for an individual, 6 as being for a company.

01.01.2021-31.12.2021: 2308 referrals (across 1262 separate accounts). Of these 1262 accounts, 1232 were showing as being for an individual, 30 as being for a company.

01.01.2022-31.12.2022: 1121 referrals (across 786 separate accounts). Of these 786 accounts, 750 were showing as being for an individual, 36 as being for a company.

01.01.2023-30.06.2023: 377 referrals (across 326 separate accounts). Of these 326 accounts, 320 were showing as being for an individual, 6 as being for a company.

Please note that the Council Tax database does not differentiate between an individual or a company being a liable party. Consequently, the counts are based upon there being an honorific title within the lead liable name field (e.g. Mr, Mrs, Miss, etc). Any lead liable name which does not include such an honorific has been counted as being a company.

2. The total amount referred to bailiffs for collection over these 5234 records was £4,347,172.28.

However, eliminating those records that were subsequently returned by the bailiff (for whatever reason), leaves a net amount of £1,728,345.93 referred that was not returned.

3. Of all the debts referred to the bailiff (whether returned or not), the smallest was £125.01.
4. Both - ARP is a partnership of 5 Council's. Enforcement Agents are employed internally and we private enforcement firms.
5. ARP engages external firms for Enforcement Agent work. However no payment is made to the companies involved.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 23/24-135.

If information has been refused please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach foi@eastcambs.gov.uk and request a review. A request for review must be made in no more than 40 working days from the date of this email.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.