



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE,
ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 4EE

Telephone: Ely (01353) 665555

www.eastcambs.gov.uk

Further to your information request FOI/EIR 23/24-185, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

1. Since April 2020, has the council at any point used debt enforcement agencies (or similar service providers) in relation to cases of outstanding council tax debt?

If the answer to question 1 is 'no', the council should proceed to questions 8 and 9.

2. What are the debt enforcement agencies referred to in response to question 1?

3. How many council tax debt cases were referred to each of the debt enforcement agencies listed in response to question 2 in each financial year 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23?

4. How much unpaid council tax debt (preferably including any 'penalty' fees/charges) was referred in total to debt enforcement agencies in the financial years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 combined? This should be one figure, combining all the debt enforcement agencies and all three financial years.

5. How much of the council tax debt stated in response to question 4 was collected after being referred to a debt enforcement agency? Again, this should be one figure combining all agencies and all three financial years (including debt that was collected in a later financial year than when it was referred).

6. The total number of council tax accounts in each council electoral ward in 2022/23 (this is all council tax accounts, not just those carrying debts or referred to debt enforcement agencies). Preferably this should be a whole-year figure, but if that is not possible a snapshot figure will suffice. If possible within the section 12 cost limit, I would like these figures to exclude accounts relating to designated second homes and empty properties.

7. The number of council tax accounts that were referred to debt enforcement agencies for council tax debt collection in 2022/23, broken down by electoral ward. This means those accounts where the referral took place during 2022/23. If possible within the section 12 cost limit, I would like these figures to exclude accounts relating to designated second homes and empty properties.

8. The total number of council tax accounts in each council electoral ward at present (this is all council tax accounts, not just those carrying debts or referred to debt enforcement agencies). This should be the most recent snapshot figure available. If possible within the section 12 cost limit, I would like these figures to exclude accounts relating to designated second homes and empty properties.

9. The number of council tax accounts that currently have unpaid council tax debts relating to financial years prior to 2023/24, broken down by electoral ward.

Response:

1. Yes

2.
ARPE Enforcement Agency
Duke Trace & Collect
Dukes Bailiffs Limited

3.		
ARPE Enforcement Agency: 2020-21		598
ARPE Enforcement Agency: 2021-22		1076
ARPE Enforcement Agency: 2022-23		761
DUTC Duke Trace & Collect: 2020-21		453
DUTC Duke Trace & Collect: 2021-22		110
DUTC Duke Trace & Collect: 2022-23		109
Dukes Bailiffs Limited: 2020-21		448
Dukes Bailiffs Limited: 2021-22		470
Dukes Bailiffs Limited: 2022-23		183

4. £3,674,068.40

5. £2,181,828.47

6. Please see attachment

7. Please see attachment

8. Please see attachment

9. Please see attachment

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 23/24-185.

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.