

FOI number: **HBC\_FOI\_20200603**  
Date FOI Received: **20/10/2020**  
Department: **Council Tax**  
Title: **Council tax arrears, homelessness and commercial rents**  
Description: **Council tax arrears, homelessness and commercial rents**

**Request: (As Redacted sent by requestor)**

#### Council tax

If the council does not have data for households for questions 1-3, please provide data for individuals.

Questions 1-3 refer to arrears that have accumulated with regard to 2020/21 council tax bills.

1. How many households have been issued with liability orders in relation to council tax arrears from the 2020/21 financial year?
2. How many households have been referred to bailiffs in relation to council tax arrears from the 2020/21 financial year?
3. For how many households has the council requested an attachment to benefits in relation to council tax arrears from the 2020/21 financial year?

#### Homelessness assistance

4. Since 1st April 2020, how many people have approached the council for help with homelessness or the threat of homelessness under the Homelessness Reduction Act?
5. Please provide the question 4 figure broken down by the month in which the approach for help was received, for each month from April to November (if available) inclusive.
6. Of the people who approached the council since 1st April 2020 for help with homelessness or the threat of homelessness under the Homelessness Reduction Act (i.e. the question 4 figure), how many have been assessed by the council as being owed the prevention duty?
7. Of the people who approached the council since 1st April 2020 for help with homelessness or the threat of homelessness under the Homelessness Reduction Act (i.e. the question 4 figure), how many have been assessed by the council as being owed the relief duty?
8. Of the people who approached the council since 1st April 2020 for help with homelessness or the threat of homelessness under the Homelessness Reduction Act (i.e. the question 4 figure), how many have been assessed by the council as being owed the main housing duty?

9. How many homeless people were supported into accommodation under the 'Everyone In' scheme in March? This question refers to the initial round of immediate support back in March, rather than any longer term assessment and support that may have occurred in subsequent months.

#### Commercial rents

10. How many commercial property tenants does the council have (in the council's role as landlord)?

11. Of the tenants referred to in question 10, how many are at least a month (or four weeks) in arrears on rent?

12. Of the tenants referred to in question 10, how many are at least three months (or 12 weeks) in arrears on rent?

13. What is the total amount of commercial property rent arrears that has accumulated to date during 2020/21 (where the council is the landlord)?

14. Please provide any report or analysis prepared by or for the council since March on the property values of the council's commercial property portfolio, particularly in terms of the impact of Covid and related economic effects.

**Response: (Response as Redacted sent by service)**

#### Council Tax

1. How many households have been issued with liability orders in relation to council tax arrears from the 2020/21 financial year? **0**

2. How many households have been referred to bailiffs in relation to council tax arrears from the 2020/21 financial year? **0**

3. For how many households has the council requested an attachment to benefits in relation to council tax arrears from the 2020/21 financial year? **0**

**HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE Q 4-9**

Since 1<sup>st</sup> April to the 30 November 2020, the number of people approached the council for help with homelessness or threat of homelessness under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017: =680

	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct.	Nov.
Monthly total	56	87	94	108	82	82	78	93
Prevention Duty owed (cumulative figure)	30	36	42	48	33	36	31	36
127 Relief duty owed	13	18	25	20	18	16	11	6
41 homelessness applicant where accepted and owed the main housing duty	8	2	9	4	5	3	3	7
28 Cases were supported on the "everyone in	2	1	9	6	5	0	1	4

Commercial rents

Please find the responses for the commercial properties in the table below:

Question 10	Question 11	Question 12	Question 13
213	46	45	£153,644

In addition to the figures in the spreadsheet :

Answer to Q 14 is

The draft 2019/20 accounts report the latest valuation of the council's investment properties (Note 5.20 page 70):

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Other-council-departments/Finance-and-Business-Services/Financial-Documents.aspx>

If you have any queries about the processing of your request then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information explaining the Council's process for responding to information requests together with a complaints/appeals procedure is available in our reception or via our website at:

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Access-to-Information.aspx>

The Information Commissioner oversees the application of the Freedom of Information Act.

You may contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office

Wycliffe House, Water Lane

Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF  
Telephone: 01625 545700 Website: [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Please include the above reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

Thank you for your request.

Kind regards  
Information Services