

Villalobos Gemma <Gemma.Villalobos@haringey.gov.uk>
to me, FOI

Dear Revd Nicolson,

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request ref: LBH/2959014

Thank you for your request for information received on 23 April 2014, in which you asked for the following information:

1. Please will you send me copies of all the emails between Tottenham magistrates court and Haringey council officials, relevant to their agreement that the level of court costs of £125 a time, to be enforced by Haringey council, should not be increased in 2013/14 over that charged in 2012/13, and all further correspondence between the court and the council about the level of costs in 2012/13 and 2014/15. (I know that exchange about the 2013/14 costs took place because the officials said so in Tottenham magistrates court when I attended my own liability order hearing and challenged the size of the costs at £125 on the 2nd August 2013; a friend undertook a transcript of the proceedings).
2. How many liability orders did the magistrates issue to the council in 2012/13 and 2013/14?
3. How many cases were represented at the magistrates court liability order hearing by or for the defendant?
4. Does the court summons advise late and not payers that there is no need to attend court?
5. How many single unemployed adults receiving £71.70 JSA are paying the "bedroom tax" as well as the council tax?
6. How many cases of late or non payment were referred by the council for action by the bailiffs in 2012/13 and 2013/14?

My response is as follows:

1. There are no emails between Tottenham Magistrates Court and Haringey Council officials in respect of the 2012/13, 2013/14 or 2014/15 courts costs. The current level of costs was agreed in 2010 and has not been amended since.
2. The total number of Liability Orders issued to The London Borough of Haringey in 2012/13 was 18571
The total number of Liability Orders issued to The London Borough of Haringey in 2013/14 was 22152
3. The number of cases that were represented by, or for, the defendant in 2013/14 was 19 (this figure is for Council Tax only, no figure is held for National Non-Domestic Rates. No figures are held for earlier years as we only started recording them from 2013/14.
4. The Summons states that: In most circumstances you do not need to attend Court, see details overleaf.
The information provided on the reverse off the summons explains what are, and what are not, valid defences against an application for a Liability Order.
5. The information you require is not held. Please be advised that the Freedom of Information Act does not oblige a public authority to create information to answer a request if the requested information is not held. It does not place a duty upon public authorities to answer a question unless recorded information exists.

6. The total number of cases issued to the bailiffs in 2012/13 was 14,569 and the total for 2013/14 is 12,484.

If you have any further queries, or are unhappy with how we have dealt with your request and wish to make a complaint, please contact the Feedback and Information Team as below. (Please note you should do this within two months of receiving this response.)

Feedback and Information Team
River Park House
225 High Road
N22 8HQ
Telephone: 020 8489 2550
Email: Fol@haringey.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

M Bradburn
For Head of Revenues, Benefits & Customer Services

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