

## 46939 Council Use of Enforcement Agencies for Debt-Collecting

I would please like to request the following information:

In the financial years 21/22, 22/23 and 23/24 (Up to 07.02.24), could you please provide me with the total monetary value of council-related debts (such as Council Tax, parking fines, failures to pay Business Rates and housing arrears) which were referred to external enforcement agencies?

Of this figure, please could you provide the amount that was recovered by external debt agencies broken down for each of the financial years referenced?

Please refer to the tables provided below, noting that debt recovered in one year may relate to debt referred in a previous year. For instance, although no new 'Sundries' debt was referred to Scott and Co. in 2021/22, they did recover £15,847.65 in this year.

### Debt referred to Scott & Co.

#### Council Tax

<b>Tax Year</b>	<b>Value of Debt</b>	<b>Value Recovered</b>
<b>2021/22</b>	£39,409,108.24	£17,949,510.19
<b>2022/23</b>	£26,706,100.74	£12,599,863.32
<b>2023/24</b>	£33,998,862.42	£12,997,388.68
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£100,114,071.40</b>	<b>£43,546,762.19</b>

#### Non-Domestic Rates

<b>Tax Year</b>	<b>Value of Debt</b>	<b>Value Recovered</b>
<b>21/22</b>	£31,580,346.01	£11,602,895.79
<b>22/23</b>	£46,680,666.38	£18,045,790.28
<b>23/24</b>	£24,044,846.79	£6,370,757.69
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£102,305,859.18</b>	<b>£36,019,443.76</b>

#### Parking Fines

<b>Tax Year</b>	<b>Value of Debt</b>	<b>Value Recovered</b>
<b>21/22</b>	£1,372,920.00	£688,520.07
<b>22/23</b>	£1,693,677.00	£757,837.07
<b>23/24</b>	£2,308,530.00	£709,930.96
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£5,375,127.00</b>	<b>£2,156,288.10</b>

#### Bus Lane Enforcement

<b>Tax Year</b>	<b>Value of Debt</b>	<b>Value Recovered</b>
<b>21/22</b>	£679,815.00	£263,555.43
<b>22/23</b>	£948,360.00	£364,930.55

<b>23/24</b>	£727,820.00	£324,722.18
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£2,355,995.00</b>	<b>£953,208.16</b>

#### Sundries

<b>Tax Year</b>	<b>Value of Debt</b>	<b>Value Recovered</b>
<b>21/22</b>	£0.00	£15,847.65
<b>22/23</b>	£1,601,244.41	£375,205.78
<b>23/24</b>	£704,802.11	£324,208.68
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£2,306,046.52</b>	<b>£715,262.11</b>

#### Debt Referred to Walker Love

	<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount Referred</b>	<b>Amount Recovered</b>
<b>Council Tax</b>	2023/24 to 07/02/2024	£2,495,008.38	£505,938.34
	2022/23	£148,874,051.33	£267,251.95
	2021/22	£0.00	Not applicable
	<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount Referred</b>	<b>Amount Recovered</b>
<b>Non-Domestic Rates</b>	2023/24 to 07/02/2024	£38,007,216.59	£116,892.41
	2022/23	£0.00	Not applicable
	2021/22	£0.00	Not applicable
	<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount Referred</b>	<b>Amount Recovered</b>
<b>Sundries</b>	2023/24 to 07/02/2024	£419,215.79	£47,221.58
	2022/23	£628,936.16	£73,567.49
	2021/22	£252,551.10	£30,355.08
	<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount Referred</b>	<b>Amount Recovered</b>
<b>Former Tenant Arrears (FTA)</b>	2023/24 to 07/02/2024	£116,665.78	£7,058.39
	2022/23	£579,235.77	£9,507.63
	2021/22	£671,820.78	£14,242.56
	<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount Referred</b>	<b>Amount Recovered</b>
<b>Parking Fines</b>	2023/24 to 07/02/2024	£109,814.23	£1,400.00
	2022/23	£111,741.16	£4,997.94
	2021/22	£206,819.72	£4,005.00
	<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount Referred</b>	<b>Amount Recovered</b>
<b>Bus Lane</b>	2023/24 to 07/02/2024	£63,153.48	£735.00
	2022/23	£68,670.00	£1,203.97
	2021/22	£151,740.00	£3,270.00

The management of current council housing arrears is carried out by internal locality-based officers. External Enforcement agencies are not used.

For each of those financial years, please provide the number of complaints the council has received about the conduct of external bailiffs and debt collectors.

We are unable to provide you with the information requested as the cost to the Council of locating, retrieving and providing the information exceeds the statutory maximum of £600.