

## FOI DOF/2024-0357

**Request**

- 1) From 2018 - 2023 inclusive, how much is owed to the LSPNI in unpaid rates. Please provide a yearly breakdown and breakdown by council.
- 2) From 2018 - 2023 inclusive, how much has the LSPNI paid on legal services to chase unpaid council rates. Please provide a yearly breakdown and breakdown by council.
- 3) From 2018 - 2023 inclusive, how much has the LSPNI paid on bailiffs to chase unpaid rates. Please provide a yearly breakdown and breakdown by council.
- 4) From 2018 - 2023 inclusive, how much has the LSPNI written off in terms of unpaid rates. Please provide a yearly breakdown and breakdown by council.

**DoF response**

I can confirm the department holds information relevant to your request.

1. Land & Property Services produces annual statistics showing the amount of Rating Debt and the count of occupancies with Rating Debt at the end of each rating year, by District Council and Sector (Domestic/Non-Domestic). This information is withheld under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (accessible to the applicant by other means). The current information concerning this can be found in the public domain at:

<https://admin.opendatani.gov.uk/dataset/annual-end-of-year-rating-debt-by-district-council-and-sector>

2. The table below shows the legal costs and fees paid by LPS associated with unpaid debt. Unfortunately we are unable to break this down by District Council. Data is at the 31<sup>st</sup> of March in each Rating Assessment year.

	<b>Legal FeesTotal *</b>
<b>2018-19</b>	<b>£2,206,011</b>
<b>2019-20</b>	<b>£1,475,250</b>
<b>2020-21</b>	<b>£378,529</b>
<b>2021-22</b>	<b>£214,224</b>
<b>2022-23</b>	<b>£193,548</b>
<b>2023-24</b>	<b>£709,503</b>

\* Includes legal fees for all levels of enforcement activity

3. Bailiffs do not operate in Northern Ireland therefore no costs were incurred by LPS for the use of bailiffs.
4. The table below shows the net amount of debt written off by LPS, by District Council. Data is at the 31<sup>st</sup> of March in each Rating Assessment year.

<b>District Council</b>	<b>2018/2019</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>	<b>2023/2024</b>
<b>Antrim and Newtownabbey</b>	£746,063	£690,682	£278,930	£465,239	£566,118	£776,480
<b>Ards and North Down</b>	£1,014,570	£1,141,489	£352,336	£753,376	£896,795	£1,318,217
<b>Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon</b>	£1,898,935	£1,474,945	£407,317	£1,297,521	£1,285,754	£1,472,518
<b>Belfast</b>	£5,343,251	£4,829,338	£2,216,659	£6,457,053	£4,796,341	£6,182,462
<b>Causeway Coast and Glens</b>	£904,204	£721,967	£197,851	£567,303	£383,403	£799,881
<b>Derry City and Strabane</b>	£1,380,306	£1,012,236	£190,769	£933,321	£667,922	£984,680
<b>Fermanagh and Omagh</b>	£564,678	£857,704	£205,205	£424,994	£690,230	£575,156
<b>Lisburn and Castlereagh</b>	£783,194	£716,389	£352,115	£739,940	£693,088	£1,292,631
<b>Mid Ulster</b>	£719,988	£837,347	£215,234	£513,154	£454,721	£818,189
<b>Mid and East Antrim</b>	£903,315	£825,992	£228,132	£432,755	£255,265	£760,996
<b>Newry, Mourne and Down</b>	£1,651,242	£1,395,511	£408,696	£1,457,235	£1,416,184	£1,974,387
<b>Totals *</b>	<b>£15,909,746</b>	<b>£14,503,600</b>	<b>£5,053,244</b>	<b>£14,041,891</b>	<b>£12,105,822</b>	<b>£16,955,598</b>

\* Figures may not sum due to rounding