

FOI DOF/2025-0385

Request

I request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

1. The number of bankruptcy proceedings initiated by Land & Property Services (LPS) in Northern Ireland in each of the past five years (calendar or financial, whichever is used internally).
2. A breakdown by year of whether the proceedings were brought against individuals or businesses, if this information is held.
3. The total value of rates debt associated with these bankruptcy proceedings, per year if available.

I am requesting this information as part of general public interest in enforcement actions and debt recovery processes.

DoF response

I can confirm the department holds the information requested.

The table below provides a breakdown of the cases that were submitted by Land & Property Services to the Crown Solicitor's Office (CSO) to initiate bankruptcy proceedings for non-payment of Rates each financial year from 2022/23 to 2024/25. Note that there were no cases submitted to the CSO during 2020/21 and 2021/22 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

	Individuals		Businesses		Total Number of Cases	Total Amount
	Number	Amount of Rates Debt	Number	Amount of Rates Debt		
2024/25	130	£1,439,537	117	£3,343,742	247	£4,783,279
2023/24	91	£1,011,211	37	£991,383	128	£2,002,595
2022/23			1		1	£32,919

Information at the end of each rating year has been analysed and only those cases submitted to CSO have been included, along with the amount that was included within the submission.