

FOI DOF/2024-0141

Request

Further to the information you kindly provided [to FOI DOF/2023-0391] and, again under the provisions of FOI I should be grateful if you would provide in respect of each local authority

- a) The updated information in relation to the 2022/23 financial year at local authority level
- b) In relation to the amounts properly due but not yet received:-
 - i The number of properties and associated amounts where repayment arrangements have been agreed and put in place
 - ii The number of properties and associated amounts where legal action has been initiated
 - iii The number of properties and associated amounts where legal action has been successfully concluded
 - iv, The number of properties and associated amounts where the payment has been written off
- c) Can you also confirm if any shortfall in payment is borne by the Department of Finance or by the local authority ie does the Council still get the District Rate paid in full

DoF response

I can confirm that the Department holds the information you have requested.

- a. This information was supplied in response to FOI DOF/2024-0391 for the 2022/23 rating year, as this is the latest full rating year for which information is available. The spreadsheet also contains at a separate tab, comparable information for all eleven Council areas at overall Council level.
Section 21 applies to information that is already reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. Section 21 is an absolute exemption, and the department is not required to consider whether the public interest favours disclosure of this information.
The response to the FOI can be seen on the DOF disclosure log linked [here](#)
No further update is available in relation to the 2022/23 rating year.

b. Note, this analysis has been carried out at occupancy level due to payment arrangements, legal action and write offs being applied at that level. An occupancy represents a liable person, persons business or organisation at a property at a given time.

i The table below shows the number of occupancies, by District Council, which have a payment arrangement in place as at 31st March 2023 and the amount of debt associated.

District Council	Number of Occupancies	Total debt
Antrim and Newtownabbey	323	£216,725
Ards and North Down	411	£363,930
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	882	£593,765
Belfast	1,127	£1,121,627
Causeway Coast and Glens	475	£280,361
Derry City and Strabane	688	£656,177
Fermanagh and Omagh	640	£322,881
Lisburn and Castlereagh	283	£393,695
Mid and East Antrim	366	£278,146
Mid Ulster	753	£479,903
Newry, Mourne and Down	1,004	£892,950
Total	6,952	£5,600,160

ii The table below provides the number of occupancies, by District Council, which had a 'Process in Debt' issued, during the 2022/23 rating year, to commence legal proceedings.

District Council	Number of Occupancies	Total debt
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	290	£1,410,650
Belfast	720	£6,096,317
Derry City and Strabane	89	£462,390
Fermanagh and Omagh	133	£847,039
Mid and East Antrim	397	£996,802
Newry, Mourne and Down	221	£1,039,953
Total	1,850	£10,853,151

iii The table below provides the number of occupancies, by District Council, which had a 'Process in Debt' issued during the 2022/23 rating year, and where there was no remaining debt at the end of the rating year.

District Council	Number of Occupancies	Total debt
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	41	£121,957
Belfast	133	£1,849,071
Derry City and Strabane	11	£37,811
Fermanagh and Omagh	25	£121,539
Mid and East Antrim	100	£218,320
Newry, Mourne and Down	34	£153,992
Total	344	£2,502,690

iv The table below provides a breakdown, by District Council, of debt write-offs for the 2022/23 rating year.

District Council	Number of Occupancies	Amount of Debt written off
Antrim and Newtownabbey	1,126	£609,281
Ards and North Down	1,470	£977,111
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	2,076	£1,393,014
Belfast	4,114	£5,052,650
Causeway Coast and Glens	1,246	£452,049
Derry City and Strabane	1,505	£751,946
Fermanagh and Omagh	1,113	£744,109
Lisburn and Castlereagh	1,192	£799,584
Mid and East Antrim	958	£348,072
Mid Ulster	1,295	£514,685
Newry, Mourne and Down	1,937	£1,517,438
Total	18,032	£13,159,939

c) Rate debt will only become a loss to a District Council whenever it is written-off. Rate revenue paid to District Councils is reduced for the district share (.ie. the district rate poundage as a total of the regional rate plus district rate poundage) for debts that are written-off.