

FOI Reference Number: FOI/075/2425

Date: 15 May 2024

Thank you for your information request received by the Policy team at Mid and East Antrim Borough Council (MEABC) on 15th May 2024 which has been processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your request:

'Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to know:

- 1. Has your local authority employed debt collection agencies to collect unpaid council tax debts or business rates over the last five years?*
- 2. Has your local authority employed bailiffs to collect unpaid council tax debts or business rates over the last five years?*
- 3. Has your local authority applied for any bankruptcy petitions against people with unpaid council tax debts or business rates over the last five years? If so, how many?*
- 4. Has your local authority applied for any charging orders against people with unpaid council tax debts or business rates over the last five years? If so, how many?*
- 5. Has your local authority "sold" any books of council tax or business rates debt over the last five years?'*

Our response:

This information is regarded as *not held* for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Council tax does not apply in Northern Ireland, the equivalent is a rating system for both domestic and business properties. Domestic and/or Business rates comprise a 'district' rate set by local Councils which is added to a regional rate which is set at the NI Assembly.

The total rateable value is administered and enforced by the Department of Finance through Land and Property Services. Please see the following URL that may assist you in locating this information:

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/land-property-services-lps>

Please quote the reference number FOI/075/2425 on any related communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of part of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within forty working days of the date of receipt of the response to your original email/letter, and should be sent by email to FOI@midandeantrim.gov.uk or by post to:

Policy Team,
The Braid,
1-29 Bridge Street,
Ballymena,
BT43 5EJ.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. You must make your complaint to the ICO within 40 working days of you receiving your response or the date of your last contact with the Council.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

Alternatively, a complaint may be made via the ICO website at:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint>

Please be advised that Mid and East Antrim Borough Council may release the response to this information request into the public domain via our website at:

<https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/>

If we publish our response to your request, your personal data will be removed to protect your privacy.