

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

FOI Ref: 13625

Date: 20 August 2007

I refer to your request dated 23 July 2007 under the above legislation for information on various rating matters in Northern Ireland. Our reply is as follows.

REQUEST NO 1

Figures for the average total household bill for domestic rates in (a) Northern Ireland and (b) in each district council in Northern Ireland, in 2006-2007.

The average domestic rate bill in Northern Ireland for 2006-2007 was £670.

The average domestic rate bill in each district council area in Northern Ireland for 2006/07 is set out in the following table:-

| DISTRICT COUNCIL | AVERAGE BILL 2006-2007 £ |
|-------------------------|---|
| Antrim | 622 |
| Ards | 763 |
| Armagh | 672 |
| Ballymena | 619 |
| Ballymoney | 596 |
| Banbridge | 653 |
| Belfast | 725 |
| Carrickfergus | 596 |
| Castlereagh | 714 |
| Coleraine | 696 |
| Cookstown | 655 |
| Craigavon | 557 |
| Derry | 605 |
| Down | 733 |
| Dungannon | 619 |
| Fermanagh | 558 |
| Larne | 567 |
| Limavady | 590 |
| Lisburn | 698 |
| Magherafelt | 600 |
| Moyle | 729 |
| Newry & Mourne | 731 |
| Newtownabbey | 621 |
| North Down | 897 |

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|----------|-----|
| Omagh | 595 |
| Strabane | 503 |

REQUEST NO 2

Figures for the average total household bill for domestic rates in (a) Northern Ireland and (b) in each district council in Northern Ireland, in 2007-08, (i) before transitional relief is applied, and (ii) after transitional relief is applied.

The average 2007-08 total household bill for domestic rates in Northern Ireland before the application of transitional relief is £704.

The average domestic rate bill before transitional relief is applied in each district council area in Northern Ireland for 2007/08 is set out in the following table:-

| DISTRICT COUNCIL | AVERAGE BILL 2007/2008 £ |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Antrim | 687 |
| Ards | 773 |
| Armagh | 729 |
| Ballymena | 700 |
| Ballymoney | 666 |
| Banbridge | 717 |
| Belfast | 697 |
| Carrickfergus | 666 |
| Castlereagh | 720 |
| Coleraine | 752 |
| Cookstown | 684 |
| Craigavon | 641 |
| Derry | 669 |
| Down | 774 |
| Dungannon | 645 |
| Fermanagh | 587 |
| Larne | 630 |
| Limavady | 694 |
| Lisburn | 732 |
| Magherafelt | 649 |
| Moyle | 788 |
| Newry & Mourne | 747 |
| Newtownabbey | 683 |
| North Down | 900 |
| Omagh | 668 |
| Strabane | 563 |

The Department is unable to answer part (ii) as information on average total household bills for domestic rates after transitional relief is applied is not available.

REQUEST NO 3

Figures for the total net revenue estimated to be raised from domestic rates in (including district and regional rates) in (a) Northern Ireland and (b) in each district council in Northern Ireland, in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08.

The total net revenue estimated to be raised from regional domestic rates in the year 2006-2007 was £248.71M and in 2007-08 is £240.3M. These estimates apply to the Regional Rate for Northern Ireland as a whole. There is no estimate of the Regional Rate on a district council basis.

Each of the 26 district councils in Northern Ireland provide their own estimate of net revenue to be raised, but separate estimates for domestic and non-domestic revenues are not available.

REQUEST NO 4

Figures for the estimated monetary value for the revenue forgone for transitional relief for the new domestic rate system in 2007-08, in (a) Northern Ireland and (b) each district council in Northern Ireland.

The estimated monetary value of revenue forgone from transitional relief for the new domestic rating system in 2007-08 in Northern Ireland is £16.9M.

The entire loss from transitional relief is borne by the Regional Rate. There is no loss to individual councils. The information is not therefore available on a district council basis.

REQUEST NO 5

Figures for the estimated number of households in (a) Northern Ireland and (b) each district council in Northern Ireland, who have a personal financial liability for domestic rates (excluding those on 100 per cent benefit), under (i) the 2006-07 domestic rates system and (ii) the new 2007-08 domestic rates system.

Please see the information provided at Annex A.

REQUEST NO 6

Figures for the number of households in (a) Northern Ireland and (b) each district council in Northern Ireland, who experienced (i) an increase (>0%), (ii) a decrease (<0%), and (iii) no change, to their total household bill for domestic rates in 2007-08 compared to what the notional bill in 2007-08 would have been under the previous rental (NAV) system, before the application of transitional relief.

Estimated figures for (a) and (b)(i) and (b)(ii) are set out in the following table. There are no ratepayers in (b)(iii).

| DISTRICT COUNCIL | 07-08 Capital Value Bill > Notional 07-08 NAV Bill | 07-08 Capital Value < Notional 07-08 NAV Bill |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Antrim | 7036 | 11782 |
| Ards | 15861 | 15866 |
| Armagh | 8839 | 12827 |
| Ballymena | 9064 | 15426 |
| Ballymoney | 3833 | 7185 |
| Banbridge | 5884 | 11697 |
| Belfast | 70640 | 53517 |
| Carrickfergus | 4072 | 12445 |
| Castlereagh | 19138 | 9475 |
| Coleraine | 10691 | 15823 |
| Cookstown | 7455 | 5061 |
| Craigavon | 8919 | 25688 |
| Derry | 15126 | 25684 |
| Down | 13163 | 13019 |
| Dungannon | 10965 | 8600 |
| Fermanagh | 12202 | 12076 |
| Larne | 5327 | 8612 |
| Limavady | 3811 | 7742 |
| Lisburn | 19007 | 24042 |
| Magherafelt | 6450 | 7797 |
| Moyle | 3645 | 4048 |
| Newry & Mourne | 18294 | 15817 |
| Newtownabbey | 10973 | 23103 |
| North Down | 15632 | 17693 |
| Omagh | 7308 | 11116 |
| Strabane | 4663 | 10014 |
| Total | 317998 | 386155 |

REQUEST NO 7

Figures for the number of households in (a) Northern Ireland and (b) each district council in Northern Ireland, who experienced (i) an increase (>0%), (ii) a decrease (<0%), and (iii) no change, to their total household bill for domestic rates in 2007-08 compared to their actual 2006-07 bill.

Estimated figures for (a) and (b)(i) and (b)(ii) are set out in the following table. There are no ratepayers in (b)(iii).

| DISTRICT COUNCIL | 07-08 Capital Value Bill > 06-07 NAV Bill | 07-08 Capital Value Bill < 06-07 NAV Bill |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Antrim | 8056 | 10762 |
| Ards | 19220 | 12507 |
| Armagh | 10701 | 10965 |
| Ballymena | 12664 | 11826 |
| Ballymoney | 4931 | 6087 |
| Banbridge | 6830 | 10751 |
| Belfast | 77560 | 46597 |
| Carrickfergus | 5265 | 11252 |
| Castlereagh | 21219 | 7394 |
| Coleraine | 13101 | 13413 |
| Cookstown | 9074 | 3442 |
| Craigavon | 11033 | 23574 |
| Derry | 18662 | 22148 |
| Down | 16361 | 9821 |
| Dungannon | 13542 | 6023 |
| Fermanagh | 15042 | 9236 |
| Larne | 6010 | 7929 |
| Limavady | 5353 | 6200 |
| Lisburn | 23384 | 19665 |
| Magherafelt | 8243 | 6004 |
| Moyle | 4374 | 3319 |
| Newry & Mourne | 22408 | 11703 |
| Newtownabbey | 15390 | 18686 |
| North Down | 18694 | 14631 |
| Omagh | 9245 | 9179 |
| Strabane | 5339 | 9338 |
| Total | 381701 | 322452 |

REQUEST NO 8

Figures for the number of households who are in receipt of transitional relief for domestic rates in (a) Northern Ireland and (b) each district in Northern Ireland, in 2007-08.

At 5 August 2007 the number of households in receipt of transitional relief for domestic rates in Northern Ireland was 81,167.

The estimated number of households in receipt of transitional relief for domestic rates in each district in Northern Ireland at 5 August 2007 is set out in the following table.

| DISTRICT COUNCIL | NO OF HOUSEHOLDS |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Antrim | 1905 |
| Ards | 4892 |
| Armagh | 1890 |
| Ballymena | 2243 |
| Ballymoney | 1059 |
| Banbridge | 1559 |
| Belfast | 23967 |
| Carrickfergus | 925 |
| Castlereagh | 2843 |
| Coleraine | 2723 |
| Cookstown | 1472 |
| Craigavon | 1854 |
| Derry | 2608 |
| Down | 3301 |
| Dungannon | 2422 |
| Fermanagh | 2631 |
| Larne | 1799 |
| Limavady | 972 |
| Lisburn | 4256 |
| Magherafelt | 1176 |
| Moyle | 1231 |
| Newry & Mourne | 3974 |
| Newtownabbey | 1449 |
| North Down | 4807 |
| Omagh | 1686 |
| Strabane | 1523 |

Number of ratepayers with personal liability

| | 2006/07 | 2007/08 |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Antrim | 15,062 | 13,976 |
| Ards | 25,161 | 23,448 |
| Armagh | 16,447 | 15,590 |
| Ballymena | 19,814 | 18,517 |
| Ballymoney | 8,932 | 8,192 |
| Banbridge | 14,311 | 13,322 |
| Belfast | 73,360 | 68,408 |
| Carrickfergus | 13,014 | 12,242 |
| Castlereagh | 22,517 | 21,235 |
| Coleraine | 20,691 | 19,238 |
| Cookstown | 8,938 | 8,341 |
| Craigavon | 25,128 | 23,792 |
| Derry | 25,553 | 24,016 |
| Down | 20,643 | 19,300 |
| Dungannon & S Tyrone | 13,171 | 12,390 |
| Fermanagh | 17,094 | 15,873 |
| Larne | 10,884 | 10,108 |
| Limavady | 8,555 | 8,019 |
| Lisburn | 32,873 | 30,994 |
| Magherafelt | 11,486 | 10,689 |
| Moyle | 6,075 | 5,571 |
| Newry & Mourne | 24,531 | 23,129 |
| Newtownabbey | 27,150 | 25,616 |
| North Down | 28,366 | 26,394 |
| Omagh | 12,842 | 12,095 |
| Strabane | 9,628 | 9,140 |
| TOTAL | 512,226 | 479,635 |
| Northern Ireland | 511,768 | 479,449 |

Note 1: The number of ratepayers with a personal liability in Northern Ireland is lower than the total of the district councils because a ratepayer may have a personal liability at 2 locations eg a main home and a holiday home.

Note 2: A new IT system was introduced in mid 2006/07 which has a slightly different data structure than the previous system. This will have a slight impact on comparisons between the 2 years.

Note 3: The 07/08 figures are as at this point in time.