

Freedom of Information
FOI Ref: 14857
Date: 21st November 2007

1. You asked for confirmation of the range of enforcement options open to this department where monies remain outstanding.

The enforcement options are to -

- Obtain a decree in the Magistrates' Court.
- Lodge the debt with the Enforcement of Judgements Office.
- Take bankruptcy or liquidation action.

2. You asked for a breakdown by council area of the location of the 7392 debts over £750.

- This information is shown in the attached table.

3. You asked how many of those ratepayers had had some form of enforcement action taken against them.

- Following the introduction of the new rate collection IT system, rate recovery functionality was not available in year, which meant that no court action was taken against defaulting ratepayers during 2006/07. However, ratepayers are now being pursued vigorously during the current financial year, and we will continue to take resolute and consistent recovery action for all unpaid rates.

DISTRICT NAME	DISTRICT NUMBER	NUMBER OF DEBTS OVER £750	VALUE OF DEBTS OVER £750
ANTRIM	1	157	762,998
ARDS	2	301	1,361,569
ARMAGH	3	145	459,215
BALLYMENA	4	128	952,483
BALLYMONEY	5	68	171,537
BANBRIDGE	6	74	222,558
BELFAST	7	2646	12,485,835
CARRICKFERGUS	8	97	651,882
CASTLEREAGH	9	161	689,365
COLERAINE	10	231	758,958
COOKSTOWN	11	109	275,067
CRAIGAVON	12	317	1,887,768
DOWNPATRICK	13	228	695,804
DUNGANNON	14	182	438,318
FERMANAGH	15	153	466,890
LARNE	16	86	309,168
LIMAVADY	17	94	245,278
LISBURN	18	400	2,106,025
DERRY	19	502	2,111,239
MAGHERAFELF	20	78	280,366
MOYLE	21	35	68,246
NEWRY & MOURNE	22	338	1,260,852
NEWTOWNABBEY	23	309	1,305,379
NORTH DOWN	24	249	1,022,123
OMAGH	25	173	534,682
STRABANE	26	131	326,074
TOTAL		7392	31,849,679