

FOI Ref
12794

Response sent
06 Apr 23

(CCC) £150 energy bill support payments

This FoIA request relates to the £150 energy bill support payments (sometimes called a 'council tax rebate') issued to Council Tax band A-D households in your area as at 1 April 2022. Further information is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-council-tax-rebate-2022-23-billing-authority-guidance/support-for-energy-bills-the-council-tax-rebate-2022-23-billing-authority-guidance>

On 2 September 2022, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities reminded local authorities in England to place any unclaimed "core" £150 payments onto council tax accounts for eligible households. This allowed for payment after the "core" scheme closed. See the section titled "Crediting council tax accounts" here:

https://web.archive.org/web/20221116231926/https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1102995/220902_Final_CT_Rebate_CTIL-_next_steps_for_Sept_2022_update.pdf

The questions below only relate to the "core/main" £150 scheme. No information is required concerning the separate "discretionary" schemes.

- 1) For properties where you are the local council, how many properties have an unclaimed "core" £150 on their council tax account?
- 2) How many of the properties in "1)" had at least one individual in council tax exemption class N as at 1 April 2022?
- 3) For properties where you are the local council, how many are recorded as a Home in Multiple Occupation (HMO) for planning purposes but not for council tax purposes?
- 4) How many of these properties in "3)" have an unclaimed "core" £150 on their council tax account and had at least one individual in council tax exemption class N as at 1 April 2022?
- 5) What decision(s) has the council made regarding distribution of these unclaimed "core" £150 payments to the eligible 1 April 2022 occupants?

Response

1) For properties where you are the local council, how many properties have an unclaimed "core" £150 on their council tax account?
Households did not need to claim the energy support, existing data used to directly award where we could, to request bank details where this was not possible or to credit the Council Tax account if neither of these were possible. Based on data available, all households that were entitled were either paid £150 or had that amount credited to their account.

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2) How many of the properties in “1)” had at least one individual in council tax exemption class N as at 1 April 2022?

For the reasons detailed in ‘1’ this this question is not applicable.

3) For properties where you are the local council, how many are recorded as a Home in Multiple Occupation (HMO) for planning purposes but not for council tax purposes?

Information not held.

4) How many of these properties in “3” have an unclaimed “core” £150 on their council tax account and had at least one individual in council tax exemption class N as at 1 April 2022?

Not applicable / Information not held. All energy rebates credited to qualifying Council Tax accounts is treated as if it is a payment therefore it did not and does not have to be ‘claimed’.

5) What decision(s) has the council made regarding distribution of these unclaimed “core” £150 payments to the eligible 1 April 2022 occupants?

There are no ‘unclaimed funds’ - the rebate was either paid or credited to the Council Tax account for all eligible residents.

Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@cambridge.gov.uk