

FOI DOF/2024-0209

Request

I would like to know the following information for Mid & East Antrim council area -

1. Total rate arrears at the last data point?
2. Total arrears split between commercial and domestic?
3. The aged profile by financial year for each of the above ?
4. Total arrears at the end of each of the last 5 financial years?

DoF response

I can confirm the department holds information relevant to your request.

1. For parts 1, 2, and 4, Land & Property Services produces annual statistics showing the amount of Rating Debt and the count of occupancies with Rating Debt at the end of each rating year, by District Council and Sector (Domestic/Non-Domestic). This information is withheld under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (accessible to the applicant by other means). The current information concerning this can be found in the public domain at:

<https://admin.opendatani.gov.uk/dataset/annual-end-of-year-rating-debt-by-district-council-and-sector>

Please note:

- These tables relate to End of Year (EoY) Rating Debt values and a count of occupancies in debt at 31st March each year, as recorded on the Land & Property Services (LPS) rating system. An occupancy is counted as being in debt where there is an outstanding balance of more than £0 at the end of the rating year.
- This data is provided by Domestic, Non-Domestic and overall totals. Mixed properties (a property that is a mix of Domestic and Non-Domestic) are included within the Non-Domestic totals.
- It is important to note that the End of Year Debt figures include debts that cannot be legally enforced due to insolvency proceedings, ratepayers residing outside jurisdiction for legal action, as well as those ratepayers who continue to pay rating debt through agreed payment arrangements established through the rating year. LPS continues to pursue End of Year Rating Debt throughout subsequent rating years.

- The totals included above are not adjusted for receipts at Year End which have been paid by ratepayers, but not yet allocated to a particular rate account.
- An occupancy represents a liable person, persons, business or organisation at a property at a given time.

For part 3, the table below shows the amount of Rating Debt at the 31st March 2024 by Sector (Domestic/Non-Domestic) for Mid & East Antrim council area by Rating Assessment year.

Rating Assessment Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total¹
2023/24	£1,714,906	£1,900,385	£3,615,290
2022/23	£839,549	£729,640	£1,569,189
2021/22	£625,465	£220,771	£846,235
2020/21	£477,766	£103,220	£580,986
2019/20	£334,575	£318,456	£653,031
2018/19	£205,832	£177,881	£383,712
2017/18	£129,223	£85,723	£214,947
2016/17	£87,199	£28,654	£115,854
2015/16	£68,529	£16,164	£84,693
2014/15 and earlier	£138,280	£14,167	£152,447
Total²	£4,621,324	£3,595,061	£8,216,384

¹ figures may not sum, due to rounding

² figures may not sum, due to rounding