

FOI number: **HBC_FOI_20190882**
Date FOI Received: **28/12/2019**
Department: **Council Tax**
Title: **Council Tax Discount SMI Disregard**
Description: **Information on the numbers receiving Council Tax Discount through the Severe Mental Impairment disregard and back dating.**

Request: (As Redacted sent by requestor)

Please can you tell me the number of households within your council who as at or around 1st January 2020:-

1. Are receiving Council Tax Discount SMI Disregard.

And of them:-

2. How many have been backdated to the date the GP certified they were suffering from Severe Mental Impairment (SMI).

Kind regards

Response: (Response as Redacted sent by service)

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to you. The answers to your questions are listed below:

1. 94 households receive the discount
2. We do not hold this information. To qualify for the discount, you need to fulfil two conditions:
 - a. Provide a doctor's note confirming severe mental impairment
 - b. Be eligible for a qualifying benefit.Because both are needed, we will always go from the date that the final item is received.

Please contact the council tax team if you need further advice about your own set of circumstances.

If you have any queries about the processing of your request then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information explaining the Council's process for responding to information requests together with a complaints/appeals procedure is available in our reception or via our website at:

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Access-to-Information.aspx>

The Information Commissioner oversees the application of the Freedom of Information Act. You may contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House, Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545700
Website: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please include the above reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

Thank you for your request.

Kind regards
Information Services