

**COUNCIL  
28 FEBRUARY 2018**

**TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF COUNCIL  
PROCEDURE RULE 10.2:**

**Question:**

**Councillors Council Tax Payment Reminders and Arrears - Question raised by  
Councillor S Currie**

*"Recently a very damning report has labelled this council as one of the worst in the country for Councillors having to be reminded to pay council tax and having Councillors in arrears. Does the leader think it is right that those Councillors, who are in arrears and therefore owe the tax payers money, continue to claim expenses from the very same tax payers?"*

**Response:**

It is of primary importance that all council tax due is paid.

The law recognises a specific duty placed upon councillors to declare and not vote in certain circumstances where they have council tax arrears in excess of 2 months.

Recent reports were based upon requests made under the Freedom of Information Act which asked how many councillors were issued with reminders for missing council tax payments due in a one year period (2016/17 council year). The request was made to many local authorities and not all responded fully to it.

The Council's Council Tax processes are carefully managed through its shared services agreement delivered by BT Lancashire Services Ltd, and I can confirm recovery action taken is in accordance with the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 (as amended), this ensures consistency is given to all Council Tax payers, to maintain the excellent rate of recovery of Council Tax in line with performance targets. No special treatment is given to councillors. There is no period prescribed by law for the issue of reminders.

Members' allowances are paid in accordance with the Council's annually approved scheme. It is a matter for the individual member concerned where they source the payment to meet any council tax liability they may have and members may choose to make the payment from allowances that are due to them.