

Ref: Council compensation for Council Tax exemption for students

I refer to our telephone conversation today regarding the compensation paid to Local Authorities for the loss of income due to properties having exemption from council tax, where they are occupied by full time students.

I should be most grateful if you would explain how councils are recompensed for the loss of income and specifically would like the following questions answered.

1. Are the councils given full compensation for the exemption, reflecting the banding of the property - i.e. would a Band "F" property result in the council being refunded the full cost of the council tax lost due to its exemption, as a result of full time student occupation?
2. Is this compensation paid retrospectively and if so how long is it before the council receives this compensation?
3. Does the compensation reflect the actual council tax bands in each local authority or has it been averaged across the country?
4. If it is a national scheme, please provide the actual compensation list for each council tax band for the current and previous years (if different).
5. Are there any reductions in the compensation received by the council due to the number of houses exempt from council tax and is it based on a discounted rate related to single person occupation?