



Ministry of Housing,
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FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL TAX SECTION

Council Tax Information Letter – 15 August 2018

Dear Colleague,

Council tax demand notices and the Adult Social Care Precept 2019-20

This letter confirms the Government's intention to change the Adult Social Care (ASC) Precept information that must be provided on council tax bills in 2019-20.

Having considered feedback from local authorities, representative bodies and members of the public about the clarity and transparency of the current approach, the Government has decided to revoke the requirement for bills to show two separate percentage increase figures for the council tax charged by ASC authorities.

Instead, bills will need to show the overall percentage increase that has been set, as is the case with all other local authorities appearing on the bill. So – for example – in a case where an authority sets an increase of 4.9%, of which 2.9% is for general expenditure and 2% for the ASC precept, the bill will have to show a 4.9% increase. In consequence of this change, we will revoke the requirement to include an explanation of the percentages in the bill's explanatory notes, and will make a minor amendment to the information that county councils must provide to their billing authorities.

The Government remains committed to ensuring that council tax payers can see a clear indication of the proportion of the bill which is dedicated to the provision of Adult Social Care services. As such, the requirement to include a separate line on the bill to show the cumulative amount of ASC Precept that has been charged since 2016-17 will remain in place.

We will also maintain the requirement to include text explaining that "*The council tax attributable to [name of authority] includes a precept to fund adult social care*".

An example of how the revised information requirements might appear on bills is attached at Annex A.

The amending regulations are in preparation. Subject to obtaining the necessary clearance we aim to lay them before Parliament in early October. An update on progress and confirmation of the requirements will be provided in due course. No other changes to council tax billing are planned for 2019-20.

Annex A

Impact on the presentation of bills

This example assumes that an ASC authority

- sets an overall 4.9% increase in 2019-20 (comprising 2.9% for general expenditure, and 2% for the ASC Precept) which gives an overall charge of £1395; and
- has charged £20, £22, £25 and £28 for the ASC Precept in successive years from 2016-17 to 2019-20 [totalling £95];

The amended approach would require the following information to be provided (subject to authorities' preferences regarding presentation):

Authority	£	%
[Name of ASC Authority]	1300.00	4.9
Adult Social Care Precept *	95.00	
<i>* The council tax attributable to [name of authority] includes a precept to fund adult social care".</i>		