



North West
Leicestershire
District Council

Council Tax Guide 2019-20

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This leaflet is available in large print electronically as a PDF or Visit www.nwleics.gov.uk/counciltax

If you would like this leaflet in another language, or if you require the services of an interpreter, please contact us.

Email: communications@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

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Welcome to the North West Leicestershire Council Tax Guide

This guide explains how your council tax is collected and distributed to the organisations that provide public services in the district.

North West Leicestershire District Council is responsible for collecting all the council tax, which is then distributed to the different authorities:

- Leicestershire County Council
- Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner
- Leicestershire Fire Authority
- North West Leicestershire District Council
- Town and parish councils.

Please read on to find out about the different ways to pay your council tax, discounts and exemptions, and support schemes.

Sign up for #paperfree in just a few minutes

With our new, online service you can view and manage your:

- Business Rates account
- Council Tax account
- Council Tax Support claim
- Housing Benefit claim
- Housing Benefit claims for your tenants – if you are a landlord who gets payments directly
- Registering is quick and easy, and using My Services is convenient. You can log into your account at any time so you won't need to ring or visit us.

Did you know that you can also

- Set up a direct debit to pay your Council Tax
- Register a change of address for Council Tax
- Set up a direct debit to pay your Business Rates.



Your council tax explained

Council tax is a local tax used to fund local services. Council, police and fire services are paid for with income from the tax, together with income from Government grants and other charges.

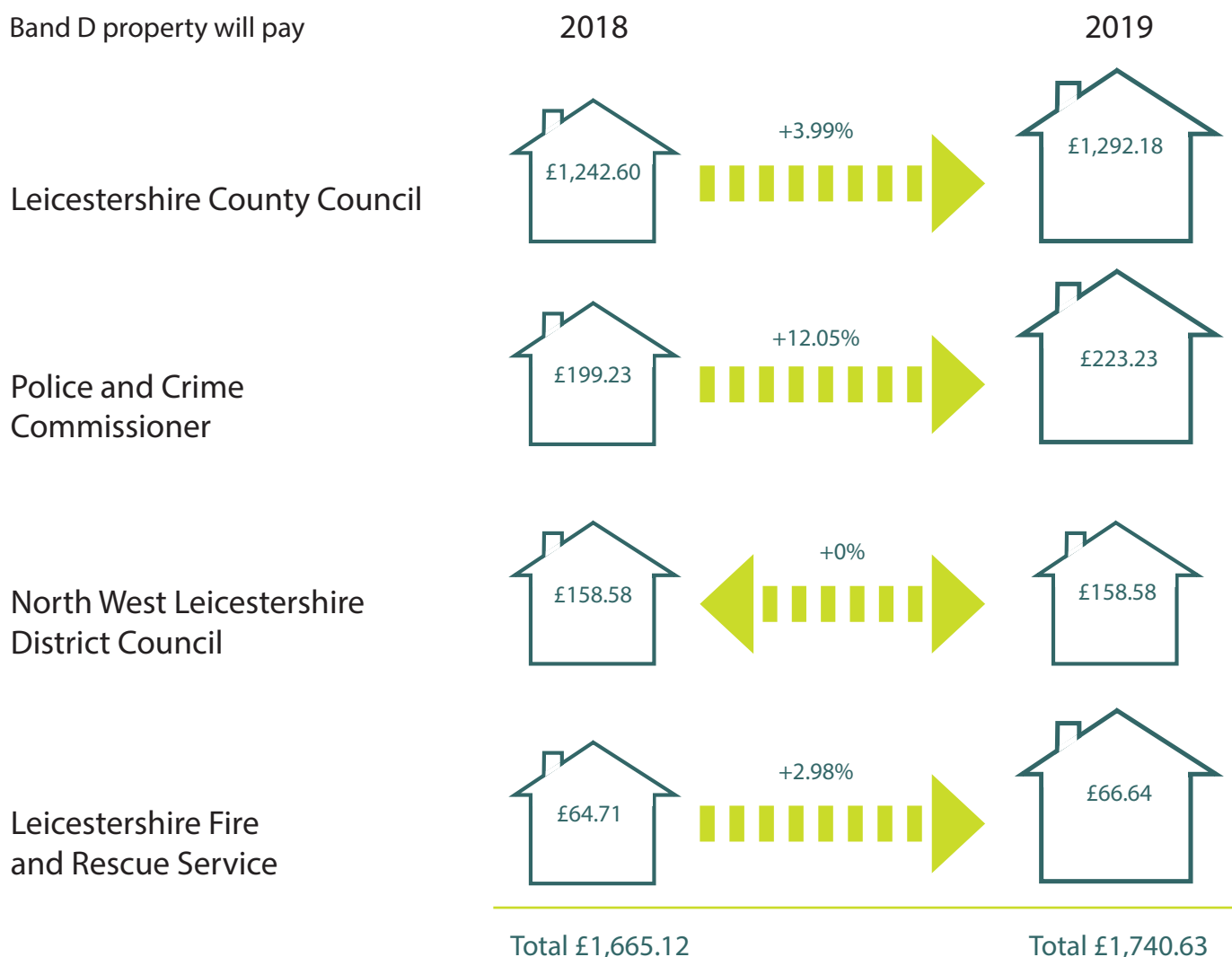
Owner occupiers usually have to pay their council tax bill. Where homes are rented, the tenants will have to pay. In the case of empty homes, it is normally the owner who has to pay. The owners of the following properties also pay council tax:

- Residential care homes, nursing homes and hostels
- Those occupied by:
 - a) A minister of religion or a religious community
 - b) More than one household
 - c) Resident staff or asylum seekers.

North West Leicestershire District Council is the local authority responsible for collecting the council tax in this area. We keep less than 10% of this and pay the rest over to the county council, the police and crime commissioner, the fire authority and the parish and town councils.

Financial information

Band D property will pay



Where your money goes

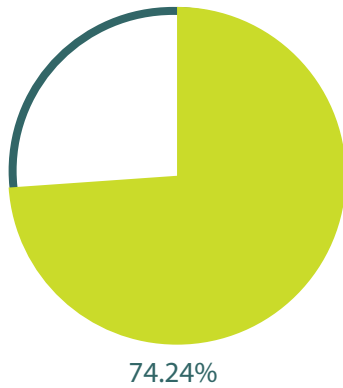
In 2019/20, a Band D property will pay £1,740.63 in council tax (not including the amount paid to parish or town councils, or special expenses).

The charts below show how council tax is split between the four main authorities. Visit each authority's website to find details of how they spend this income on public services.



www.leicestershire.gov.uk/counciltax

£1,292.18

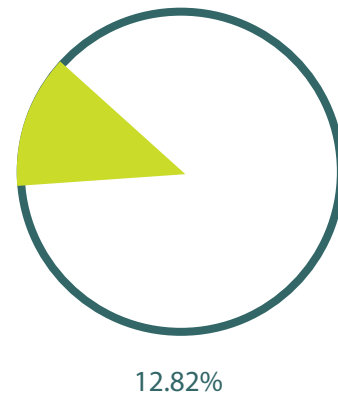


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Your voice in Leicester,
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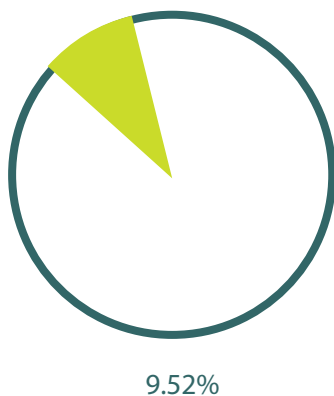
www.leics.pcc.police.uk/counciltax

£223.23



www.nwleics.gov.uk/counciltax

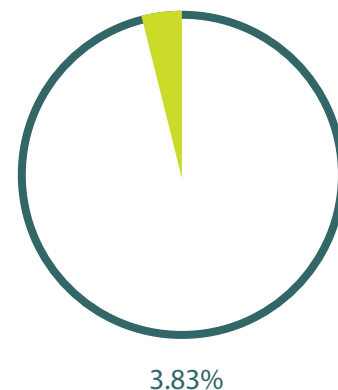
£158.58



**LEICESTERSHIRE
FIRE and RESCUE SERVICE**

www.leicestershire-fire.gov.uk

£66.64



Council tax valuation bands

The Valuation Office Agency (not your local council) has put every property into one of eight valuation bands. Further details are available on the Valuation Office Agency website at www.voa.gov.uk.



Band	Range of values at 1 April 1991	Proportion of Band D tax payable
A	Up to and including £40,000	6/9
B	£40,001 to £52,000	7/9
C	£52,001 to £68,000	8/9
D	£68,001 to £88,000	9/9
E	£88,001 to £120,000	11/9
F	£120,001 to £160,000	13/9
G	£160,001 to £320,000	15/9
H	More than £320,000	18/9

Council tax appeals

If you do not agree with the band for your home and wish to make an appeal, please contact the Valuation Office on 03000 501501 or go to the Valuation Office website: www.voa.gov.uk

Other appeals

If you wish to appeal against any other matter regarding your council tax, please do so in writing to the Council Tax Team. You can email the team at revenues@nwleicestershire.gov.uk or write to us at:

F.A.O. Council Tax Team, The Leicestershire Partnership, PO Box 10004, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 9EJ.

You should continue to pay your original council tax demand notice whilst your appeal is outstanding. In the event of an overpayment, the credit will be offset against any outstanding balance and the remainder refunded to you.

Council Tax Support Scheme

With effect from April 2013, 'Council Tax Benefit' was replaced by a local Council Tax Support Scheme. The Government reduced the amount of money local councils received to provide full discounts on Council Tax for working age people.

Everyone under state pension age must pay some council tax.

In 2018/19, working age people (in receipt of maximum Council Tax Support) have to pay 15% of their council tax charge.

It is important that you contact us as soon as you receive your council tax demand notice if you need help and advice on how to pay your charge.

People of pensionable age who were in receipt of council tax benefit are protected from these changes. You will continue to receive the same level of support that you would have done under the council tax benefit rules.

Important note:

If your circumstances change you should report this to the council within a month of the change occurring. Failure to do this will be dealt with as an act of fraud. You can ring us on 01530 454551, email: benefits@nwleicestershire.gov.uk or write to us at F.A.O. Benefits Team, The Leicestershire Partnership, PO Box 10004, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 9EJ.

People who are entitled to claim, or are already claiming Pension Credit will not have to pay more than they do now.

How to pay

Paying council tax over 12 months

Council tax instalments can now be spread over 12 months instead of 10. Following your request, the number of payments will be dependent on the number of months remaining in the financial year. Your written request for 12 monthly instalments will automatically apply to the next financial year. If you would prefer to revert back to paying over ten months, please notify us in writing and we will amend our records.

If you would like to pay your council tax over 12 months, please email your request detailing your name, full address and council tax reference number (shown on your notice) to revenues@nwleicestershire.gov.uk or write to us at F.A.O. Council Tax Team, The Leicestershire Partnership, PO Box 10004, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 9EJ. Alternatively, please call Customer Services on 01530 454499.

Pay your council tax or business rates by Direct Debit

It's simple, convenient and secure.

You only need to set up a direct debit for council tax or business rates once. There is no need to cancel it at the end of the financial year.

Your payments will be automatically collected from your bank account on the dates shown on your demand notice.

After your final 2019/20 instalment has been collected, no further payments will be taken until the 2020/21 financial year starts and the first instalment becomes due in April 2020.

Set up a Direct Debit by going to www.nwleics.gov.uk/paybydirectdebit

Alternatively, simply call us on 01530 454499. Please have your bank account details and reference number to hand to allow us to set this up over the telephone.



Protected by the direct debit guarantee

73%
of council tax
payers in the area
pay by
direct debit

Are you struggling financially? We are here to help

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are having difficulty paying your council tax or business rates instalments.

We can help you by:

- Referring you to a money advisor at Citizens Advice
- Referring you to our Benefits Team or Benefits Visiting Officers
- Agreeing an alternative payment arrangement with you
- Giving you advice about discounts, exemptions and reliefs.

Don't wait until you have lost your right to pay by instalments. We will be able to help if you contact us at an early stage, before any recovery action is taken.

You can call us on 01530 454499 or email revenues@nwleicestershire.gov.uk



Discounts and exemptions

Discounts

Council tax assumes there are at least two adults living in the home. If you live on your own, you are entitled to 25% discount.

If an adult within the household falls into one of the following categories then a discount may apply:

- Full time students, student nurses, apprentices, youth training trainees and foreign language assistants
- 18/19 year olds who are at or have just left school or college
- Patients resident in hospital or being looked after in care homes
- Severely mentally impaired people
- People in hostels or night shelters
- Low paid care workers usually employed by charities
- People caring for a person with a disability who is NOT a partner or child under 18 years old
- Members of religious communities such as monks or nuns
- People in detention (except for non-payment of council tax or a fine)
- Members of visiting forces, certain international and defence organisations.

Temporary absences owing to holiday or work will not normally result in discount entitlement.

Local discounts – empty property

North West Leicestershire District Council also has a local discount scheme for:

- Properties that are in need of, or undergoing major repair work or structural alteration. These properties are entitled to a 50% discount from council tax for up to 12 months.
- Properties that are unoccupied and unfurnished. These properties are entitled to a one month discount of 100%.

Long term empty properties – Unoccupied and unfurnished

With effect from 1 April 2019 if a property has been empty and unfinished for more than two years a 50% premium will be added to the charge, which will mean that you will pay 150% in council tax.

If the property still remains empty and unfurnished after three years a 100% premium will be added to the charge which means you will pay 200% in council tax.

Second Homes - unoccupied but furnished property

With effect from 1 April 2019 unoccupied and furnished properties will no longer qualify for a 10% discount.

Annexe discount – From 1 April 2014 annexes meeting certain criteria are entitled to a 50% discount. To qualify for a discount the annexe must be occupied by a relative of the person who is liable to pay council tax on the main home. If it is unoccupied the annexe must be being used as part of the main home. Please contact us for more details. If you wish to apply, we will send you an application form.

Disabled people

A property band reduction in the charge may be applicable if you, or someone who lives with you, is disabled and uses a wheelchair within the property or requires a room to meet their needs, or requires an extra bathroom / kitchen. Please contact the Council Tax Team if you wish to apply.

Exemptions

Some properties may be exempt from council tax and the following is a broad description.

Class	Unoccupied properties	Entitlement
B	Owned by a charity	Up to 6 months
D	Left empty by someone who has gone to prison	No charge
E	Previously occupied by a person in permanent residential care	No charge
F	Waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted	Up to 6 months after probate is granted
G	Empty because occupation is forbidden by law	No charge
H	Waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion	No charge
I	Left empty by someone who has moved to receive personal care by reason of old age, disablement or illness	No charge
J	Left empty by someone who has moved to provide personal care to another person	No charge
K	Owned by a student and last occupied by a student	No charge
L	Subject to a Repossession Order	No charge
Q	The responsibility of a bankrupt's trustee	No charge
R	A site for a caravan, mobile home or mooring	No charge
T	Granny annexes or similar type of property	No charge

Class	Occupied properties
M/N	All the residents are students
O	Used for UK armed forces accommodation
P	At least one liable person is a member of a visiting force
S	All residents are less than 18 years old
U	All residents are severely mentally impaired
V	At least one liable person is a foreign diplomat
W	It is annexed to a family home and occupied by that family's elderly or disabled relatives

If you think you may be entitled to a discount or may be exempt, please contact the Council Tax Team on 01530 454499. If you receive a discount / exemption then you must tell the Council Tax Team within 21 days of any change of circumstances which affects your entitlement. Failure to do so may lead to a penalty charge. If the property remains unoccupied and unfurnished after any exemption expires then it will attract a 100% council tax charge.

Special expenses and local parish precepts

Special expenses

When the district council provides services on behalf of a parish, or because there is no parish council in that area, these become special expenses of the district council and are only charged to the council tax payers in that area.

The table below shows where the special expenses are charged and how the charges are made up.

Special expenses are paid to the district council for maintaining parks, play areas, allotments, burial grounds, grass verges and any other open spaces owned by the council.

Special expenses area	Cost of providing the services (£)	Less: Income from other sources (£)	Net cost of providing the services (£)	No. of properties in Special Expenses area (£)	Average Special Expenses per property (£)
Appleby Magna	1,710	103	1,813	518	3.50
Coalville	463,300	(50,546)	412,754	6,497	63.53
Coleorton	3,490	(490)	3,000	565	5.31
Hugglescote and Donington Le Heath	31,730	(2,516)	29,214	1,623	18.00
Lockington cum Hemington	1,960	(284)	1,676	236	7.10
Measham	1,990	(170)	1,820	1,685	1.08
Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe and Acresford	4,050	(488)	3,562	844	4.22
Osgathorpe	380	(12)	368	207	1.78
Ravenstone with Snibston	380	23	403	984	0.41
Stretton en le Field	1,420	(222)	1,198	21	57.05
Whitwick	25,220	(4,827)	20,393	2,719	7.50

In areas where there are parish or town councils, a portion of your council tax is given to them to provide certain services, such as grass cutting and cemeteries. The following information gives you the financial details for parish and town councils. Where there isn't a parish or town council, the district council may take on some services. These are called special expenses - see page 11 for more information.

Local parish precepts

2018/19 Precept £	Parish	2019/20 Precept £	2019/20 Tax Base	Effect on a Band D Property £
17,296.50	Appleby Magna	18,531.00	518	35.77
427,007.25	Ashby de la Zouch	441,799.00	5675	77.85
108,801.00	Ashby Woulds	111,166.00	1363	81.56
0.00	Bardon	-	10	0.00
20,549.75	Belton	23,500.00	302	77.81
21,605.00	Breedon-on-the-Hill	24,000.00	432	55.56
308,782.25	Castle Donington	337,885.50	2461	137.30
4,000.00	Charley	4,053.00	77	52.64
0.00	Chilcote	-	57	0.00
0.00	Coalville	-	6497	0.00
14,348.00	Coleorton	14,348.00	565	25.39
60,429.00	Ellistown and Battleflat	62,359.70	805	77.47
11,718.00	Heather	11,860.00	330	35.94
97,222.00	Hugglescote and Donington le Heath	110,575.00	1623	68.13
198,850.00	Ibstock	198,850.00	2267	87.72
382.00	Isley Walton-Cum-Langley	382.00	28	13.64
105,501.00	Kegworth	110,050.00	1267	86.86
10,000.00	Lockington-Cum-Hemington	12,500.00	236	52.97
38,668.00	Long whatton and Diseworth	39,593.00	770	51.42
110,586.00	Measham	114,195.00	1685	67.77
0.00	Normanton-Le-Heath	-	65	0.00
49,991.75	Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe and Acresford	53,994.50	844	63.97
4,007.75	Osgathorpe	4,142.00	207	20.01
21,045.00	Packington	21,158.00	376	56.27
55,019.00	Ravenstone	55,019.00	984	55.91
6,129.00	Snarestone	10,000.00	129	77.52
200.00	Staunton Harold	203.00	63	3.22
0.00	Stretton-en-le-Field	-	21	0.00
19,372.00	Swannington	20,000.00	452	44.25
17,433.00	Sweepstone	17,433.00	263	66.29
290,556.00	Whitwick	284,513.00	2719	104.64
9,020.00	Worthington	9,500.00	587	16.18
2,028,519.25		TOTALS 2,111,609.70	33,678	

Additional financial information (Local parish precepts of £140,000 or more)

Castle Donington Parish Council

£ 2018/19	For all services administered	£ 2019/20
406,268	Estimated gross expenditure	407,754
550,418	Allocated expenditure - rolling programme*	307,481
-48,300	Less income to offset	-66,400
-300	Less interest	-1,000
-45,348	Less from reserves / balances	-110
-550,418	Less from rolling programme reserves*	-307,481
312,320	Gross budget requirement	340,244
3,538	Less Council Tax Support Grant	2,358
308,782	Precept requested	337,886.00
2,415	Council tax base of parish	2,461
£127.86	Precept for a Band D property	£137.30

Ashby de la Zouch Town Council

£ 2018/19	For all services administered	£ 2019/20	Effect on a Band D property
563,967	Estimated gross expenditure	548,864	£96.72
136,960	Less income to offset	64,711	-£11.40
0	Less interest	0	£0.00
0	Less from reserves / balances	42,354	-£7.47
427,007	Budget requirement (precept)	441,799	£77.85
5,485	Council tax base of parish	5,675	
£77.85	Precept for a Band D property	£77.85	

Additional financial information (Local parish precepts of £140,000 or more)

Ibstock Parish Council

£ 2018/19	For all services administered	£ 2019/20	Effect on a Band D property
208,850	Estimated gross expenditure	216,850	£88.81
-10,000	Less income to offset	-18,000	£87.72
0	Less interest	0	£0.00
0	Less from reserves / balances	0	£0.00
198,850	Budget requirement (Precept)	198,850	£1.09
2,239	Council tax base of parish	2,267	
£88.81	Precept for a Band D property	£87.72	

Whiwick Parish Council

For all services	2018/19	2019/20
Estimated Expenditure	£241,132	£281,148
Less Estimated Income	£17,901	£15,268
Less NWLDC Estimated Special Expense Balance Transfer	£0	£0
Less Estimated balances to be carried forward from 2015/16	-£67,325	-£18,633
Budget Requirement (Precept)	£290,556	£284,513
Council Tax Base Figure	2702	2719
Effect on a Band D Property	£107.53	£104.64

Flood defence

The Environment Agency is a levying body for its Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Environment Agency (Levies) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood and coastal erosion risk management of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (2369), Anglian Northern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (2292) and Severn and Wye Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (2486km). Money is spent on the construction of new flood defence schemes, the maintenance of the river system and existing flood defences together with the operation of a flood warning system and management of the risk of coastal erosion. The financial details are:

Regional Flood and Coastal Committees

	Trent		Anglian Northern		Severn and Wye	
	2018/2019 £000s	2019/2020 £000s	2018/2019 £000s	2019/2020 £000s	2018/2019 £000s	2019/2020 £000s
Gross expenditure	£46,438	£74,586	£56,765	£82,537	£14,847	£15,871
Levies raised from council	£2,054	£2,095	£1,698	£1,698	£1,128	£1,151
Total council tax base	1,792	1,821	581	592	958	974

The majority of funding for flood defence comes directly from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). However, under the new Partnership Funding rule not all schemes will attract full central funding. To provide local funding for local priorities and contributions for partnership funding the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees recommend through the Environment Agency a local levy.

A change in the gross budgeted expenditure between years reflects the programme of works for both capital and revenue needed by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to which you contribute.

	Trent	Anglian Northern	Severn and Wye
2018/2019	£2,054,297	£1,697,648	£1,128,018
Increased %	2.0%	0.0%	2.0%
2019/2020	£2,095,383	£1,697,648	£1,150,579

Leicestershire County Council pays flood defence levies to the following Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCC) of the Environment Agency.

	2018/2019 £000s	2019/2020 £000s
Trent	239	243
Severn and Wye	7	7
Anglian	46	46
Total	292	296

The total levy for the Trent RFCC in 2019/20 is £2.1m.

The total levy for the Severn and Wye RFCC in 2019/20 is £1.2m.

The total levy for the Anglian Northern RFCC in 2019/20 is £1.7m.

Contact us



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