

Enforcement Agents

New regulations came into force on 6th April 2014 that replaced previous legislation in relation to 'bailiffs'. Key changes are:

- * Bailiffs are now Enforcement Agents (EA)
- * Bailiff companies are now EA companies
- * The Levy process (levy and distress) is now Taking Control of Goods
- * Walking possession is now called Controlled Goods Agreement

The Taking Control of Goods (Fees) Regulations 2014 also introduced new levels of fees

that can be charged by enforcement agents in the recovery of Council Tax and Business Rates debts.

These are charged in 3 stages:

Enforcement Stage 1: Compliance Fee

A cost of £75 is charged for each liability order we pass to the enforcement agent.

If you have multiple debts outstanding for your current or previous address for which several liability orders have been issued, which are referred to enforcement agents this will result in significant amounts of costs being added to the amount you owe.

Enforcement Stage 2: Enforcement Fee

A further cost of £235 plus 7.5% of any debt above £1,500 is added to the amount you owe once the enforcement agent visits your property.

Enforcement Stage 3: Sale or Disposal Fee

A further of £110 plus another 7.5% fee of any debt outstanding above £1,500 is added to the amount you owe, together with any sale or disbursement costs.

An example of how fees can add up:

If 4 liability orders are referred this will result in £300 (4x£75) being added to the amount you owe immediately.

Where agreement cannot be reached at the compliance stage and liability orders are moved to the enforcement stage a further £235 will be added to the debt owed.

Where this amount is over £1,500 a further 7.5% of the amount over £1,500 will be added to the amount owed. If the amount was £3,000 this would be a further £112.50.

Where goods have to be sold or disposed of £110 will be added to the debt owed and if as in the example above the amount owed was £3,000 another £112.50 would be added.

In this example the additional amount to be paid to enforcement agents in costs would be £870.