



Via Email Only

27 March 2020

Freedom of Information Ref No. FOI19



Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 2nd March 2020.

You asked Money and Pensions Service the following: -

“We seek clarification on the Money and Pensions Service’s (MAPS) debt advice levy. We kindly request the release of the following information:

- 1. What was the total amount (£) of the debt advice levy collected by MAPS and SFGB for the year 2018-19?**
- 2. Could you evidence how the debt advice levy was allocated for the year 2018-19?**
- 3. What was the total amount (£) of the debt advice levy collected MAPS for the year 2019-20?**
- 4. Could you evidence how the debt advice levy was allocated for the year 2019-20?**
- 5. For the year 2018-19, did other organisations, parties, or individuals receive a proportion of the debt advice levy’s allocation and if so who are those parties and what amount (£) did they receive?**
- 6. For the year 2019-20, did other organisations, parties, or individuals receive a proportion of the debt advice levy’s allocation and if so who are those parties and what amount (£) did they receive?**
- 7. Will the total of the debt advice levy remain the same for the year 2020-21?”**

Money and Pensions Service Response:

I should explain that on 1st January 2019, Pension Wise, The Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS) and the Money Advice Service merged to form the Money and Pensions Service. These businesses were formerly known as the Single Financial Guidance Body. The Money and Pensions Service aims to deliver advice relating to pensions, money guidance, debt advice, and consumer protection. Further details can be found on the website: <https://moneyandpensionservice.org.uk/>.

With regards to your Freedom of Information request and the points you have raised, I can confirm the following:

1. What was the total amount (£) of the debt advice levy collected by MAPS and SFGB for the year 2018-19?

The Money and Pensions Service are not responsible for collecting the debt advice levy. The Levy is collected and managed by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The FCA is an independent public body which oversees the UK’s financial system, regulating the conduct of businesses and markets. It provides regulatory services, calculating and collecting fees and levies. Further information about the levies they collect can be found on their website <https://www.fca.org.uk/>

Money and Pensions Service

120 Holborn, London EC1N 2TD t: +44 (0)115 9659570 w: MoneyAndPensionsService.org.uk





2. Could you evidence how the debt advice levy was allocated for the year 2018-19?

Unfortunately, I am unable deal with your request without clarification of the information you seek. Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act explains that we should assist you in helping you focus your request. Therefore, I suggest you first contact the FCA in relation to your points about the levy. Once you have considered their response, you may wish to refine your request accordingly and come back to me. I will consider afresh any revised request; however, I cannot guarantee that it will fall within the cost limit of dealing with FOI requests.

3. What was the total amount (£) of the debt advice levy collected MAPS for the year 2019-20?

As explained under point 1, the Levy is collected and managed by the FCA; you may wish to contact them about this question.

4. Could you evidence how the debt advice levy was allocated for the year 2019-20?

I am unable deal with your request without further clarification. You need to write to me again and be specific about the information you require. I will consider afresh any revised request within the cost limit of dealing with FOI requests.

5. For the year 2018-19, did other organisations, parties, or individuals receive a proportion of the debt advice levy's allocation and if so, who are those parties and what amount (£) did they receive?

For the year 2018-19, several organisations received a proportion of the Debt Advice Levy in relation to the Money and Pensions Service. The organisations that received a portion of the funding are; Citizens Advice, Toynbee Hall, Talking Money, Citizens Advice Knowsley, Community Advice & Law Service, Foundation for Credit Counselling, Debt Advice Foundation, Money Advice Trust, Language Line, Recognising Excellence, Shelter, Institute of Money Advisors, Critical, BDRC, Trajectory, 2CV and PWC research. Money and Pensions Service total Debt levy for 2018-2019 was approximately £48 million.

6. For the year 2019-20, did other organisations, parties, or individuals receive a proportion of the debt advice levy's allocation and if so who are those parties and what amount (£) did they receive?

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7. Will the total of the debt advice levy remain the same for the year 2020-21?

As the Levy is collected and managed by the FCA, you may wish to contact the FCA about this question.



**Money &
Pensions
Service**

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any queries about my response to your request do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communication.

Yours sincerely,



Complaints & Freedom of Information Officer

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you can ask for an internal review by e-mailing foi@maps.org.uk or by writing to Money and Pensions Service, 120 Holborn, London, EC1N 2TD. Any review request should be sent within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF
<https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/> or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745

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