

SDR 47/2015

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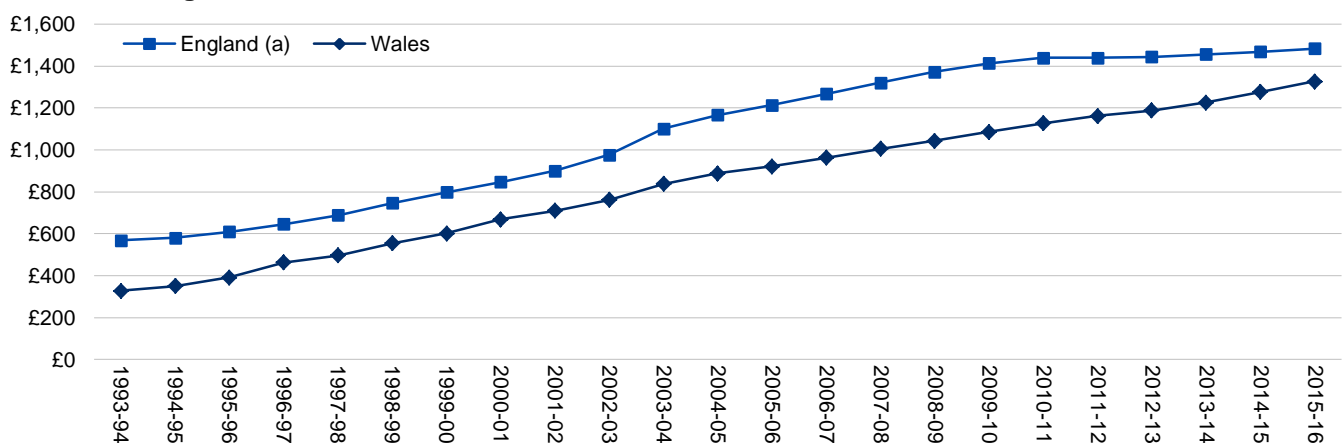
## Council Tax levels in Wales: 2015-16

Council tax is a tax on domestic property set by local authorities in order to collect sufficient revenue to meet their demand. It is calculated based on the council tax band assigned to each dwelling in each local authority which are each assigned to one of nine valuation bands: A to I. This release provides details of the levels of average band D council tax in Welsh local authorities for the financial year 2015-16 and changes over 2014-15.

### Key points

- Average band D council tax for Wales for 2015-16 is £1,328. This includes £1,088 for county councils, £211 for police and £29 for community councils. Figures for billing authorities, including police elements, vary from £1,029 in Pembrokeshire to £1,635 in Blaenau Gwent (table 1).
- County council increases in band D council tax for 2015-16 average £47 or 4.3% over the previous year. Police increases average £5 or 2.5%. These increases combine to produce an average band D rise of £52 or 4.1% (table 2 and chart 5).
- South Wales Police has the largest band D increase of £10 or 5.0%. Dyfed Powys Police have reduced their band D council tax by £11 or 5.0%.
- Cardiff and Monmouthshire have the largest band D percentage increases (including community council and police elements) of 5.0%. Pembrokeshire has the smallest overall band D percentage increase of 2.4% (table 2).
- In England, around 53% of authorities are estimated to freeze council tax in 2015-16 in exchange for additional funding from Central Government. The estimated Band D percentage increase for English authorities is 1.1%.
- Welsh average band D council tax is 89% of the latest estimated figure of £1,484 for England.

Chart 1: Average band D council tax



(a) England figures based on estimates for 2015-16 from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

Additional information is available at: [www.statswales.wales.gov.uk](http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk)

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Council tax can be measured in 'band D' or in 'per dwelling' terms. Band D has historically been used as the standard for comparing council tax levels between and across local authorities. This measure is not affected by the varying distribution of properties in bands that can be found across authorities. The 'per dwelling' calculation uses **chargeable dwelling** figures which gives an indication of the average amount of council tax that is **actually paid per household**.

Table 1 shows the average band D and the average per dwelling figures for council tax levels across all billing authorities. The table also shows county, community council and police elements. The average council tax per dwelling ranges from £937 in Pembrokeshire to £1,500 in Monmouthshire.

**Table 1: Breakdown of band D council tax in Wales, 2015-16**

	£				
	Average band D	Of which:			Average per dwelling
		County council element	Community council element (a)	Police authority element	
Isle of Anglesey	1,296	1,026	35	235	1,162
Gwynedd	1,430	1,161	34	235	1,244
Conwy	1,286	1,013	38	235	1,169
Denbighshire	1,422	1,142	45	235	1,283
Flintshire	1,301	1,025	40	235	1,238
Wrexham	1,276	996	45	235	1,167
Powys	1,287	1,046	41	200	1,268
Ceredigion	1,300	1,070	29	200	1,211
Pembrokeshire	1,029	801	28	200	937
Carmarthenshire	1,348	1,076	71	200	1,146
Swansea	1,342	1,132	10	200	1,136
Neath Port Talbot	1,609	1,368	40	200	1,177
Bridgend	1,483	1,249	34	200	1,237
Vale of Glamorgan	1,312	1,070	42	200	1,346
Cardiff	1,224	1,022	2	200	1,218
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,519	1,295	24	200	1,090
Merthyr Tydfil	1,554	1,353	1	200	1,061
Caerphilly	1,215	992	11	212	943
Blaenau Gwent	1,635	1,406	17	212	1,034
Torfaen	1,352	1,097	43	212	1,106
Monmouthshire	1,349	1,095	42	212	1,500
Newport	1,154	938	4	212	1,013
<b>Wales average</b>	<b>1,328</b>	<b>1,088</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>1,163</b>

(a) The average community council element across the county.

Chart 2 shows average per dwelling compared with the Wales average in 2015-16. Pembrokeshire's average per dwelling is £226 less than the Welsh average and Monmouthshire is £337 more than the Wales average.

**Chart 2: Difference in average council tax per dwelling compared with the Welsh average, 2015-16**

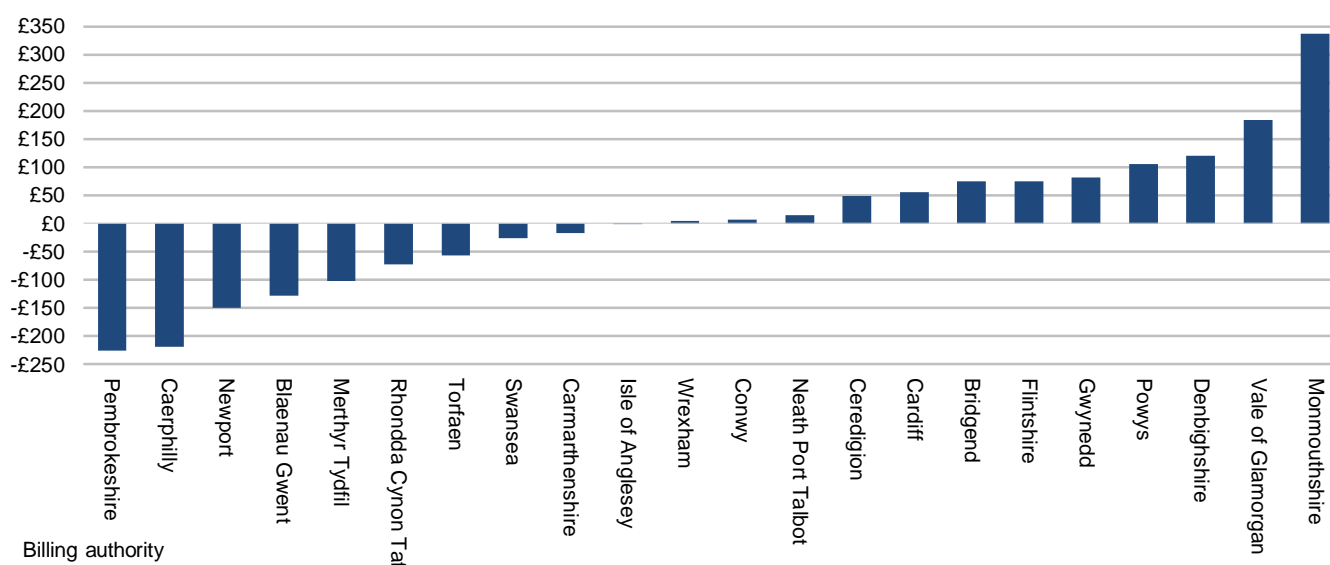


Chart 3 shows the average band D council tax for all billing authorities. Blaenau Gwent has the largest average band D council tax whilst Pembrokeshire has the smallest average band D council tax.

**Chart 3: Average band D council tax, 2015-16**

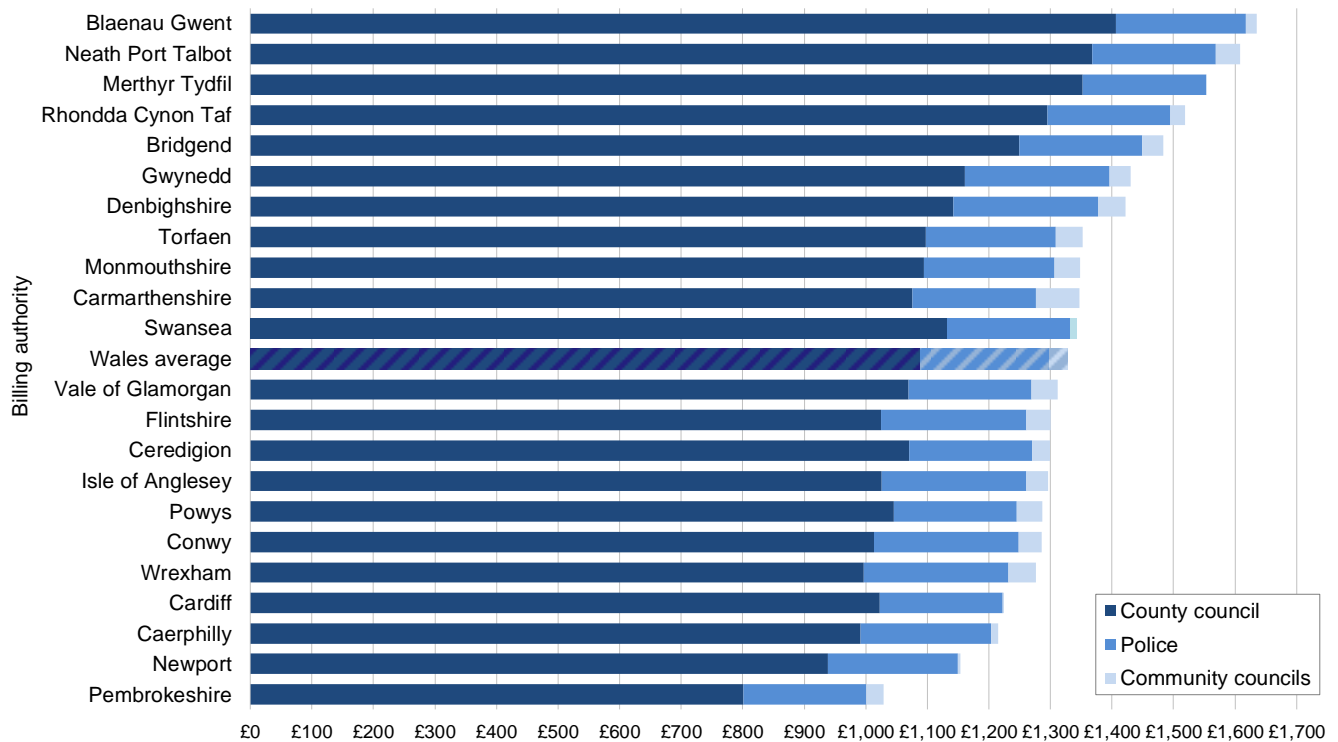


Table 2 shows the increases in average band D council tax compared to the previous year for counties (including community councils) and police. Cardiff has the largest percentage increase of 5.0%. All other authorities have increased by at least 2.4%. The Wales county average is 4.3%. South Wales Police has the largest band D increase of £10 or 5.0%. Dyfed Powys Police have reduced their band D council tax by £11 or 5.0%. The overall Wales average Band D increase including police elements is 4.1%

**Table 2: Increases in average band D council tax**

			Of which:			Due to:				
	2014-15 £	2015-16 £	Overall increase £	Overall		Overall increase %	Overall			Police authority area
				(a) County £	Police £		(a) County %	Police %	Police %	
Isle of Anglesey	1,242	1,296	54	46	8	4.3	4.5	3.4		
Gwynedd	1,371	1,430	59	51	8	4.3	4.5	3.4		
Conwy	1,229	1,286	58	50	8	4.7	5.0	3.4		
Denbighshire	1,380	1,422	43	35	8	3.1	3.0	3.4	North Wales	
Flintshire	1,255	1,301	46	38	8	3.7	3.7	3.4		
Wrexham	1,238	1,276	38	31	8	3.1	3.0	3.4		
Powys	1,255	1,287	32	43	-11	2.6	4.1	-5.0		
Ceredigion	1,259	1,300	41	52	-11	3.3	4.9	-5.0	Dyfed Powys	
Pembrokeshire	1,005	1,029	24	35	-11	2.4	4.4	-5.0		
Carmarthenshire	1,307	1,348	41	51	-11	3.1	4.7	-5.0		
Swansea	1,280	1,342	62	52	10	4.8	4.8	5.0		
Neath Port Talbot	1,542	1,609	66	57	10	4.3	4.2	5.0		
Bridgend	1,413	1,483	70	60	10	4.9	4.9	5.0		
Vale of Glamorgan	1,261	1,312	51	42	10	4.0	3.9	5.0	South Wales	
Cardiff	1,166	1,224	58	49	10	5.0	5.0	5.0		
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,461	1,519	58	48	10	3.9	3.8	5.0		
Merthyr Tydfil	1,486	1,554	68	58	10	4.6	4.5	5.0		
Caerphilly	1,169	1,215	46	37	8	3.9	3.9	4.0		
Blaenau Gwent	1,591	1,635	44	35	8	2.7	2.6	4.0	Gwent	
Torfaen	1,294	1,352	59	51	8	4.5	4.6	4.0		
Monmouthshire	1,285	1,349	64	56	8	5.0	5.2	4.0		
Newport	1,101	1,154	53	45	8	4.8	5.0	4.0		
Wales average	1,276	1,328	52	47	5	4.1	4.3	2.5		

(a) Including community council precepts.

Chart 4 shows the average changes in council tax compared to the previous year. The average increase for Wales is £52. This comprised of £47 for county councils and £5 for police.

**Chart 4: Change in average band D council tax, 2015-16**

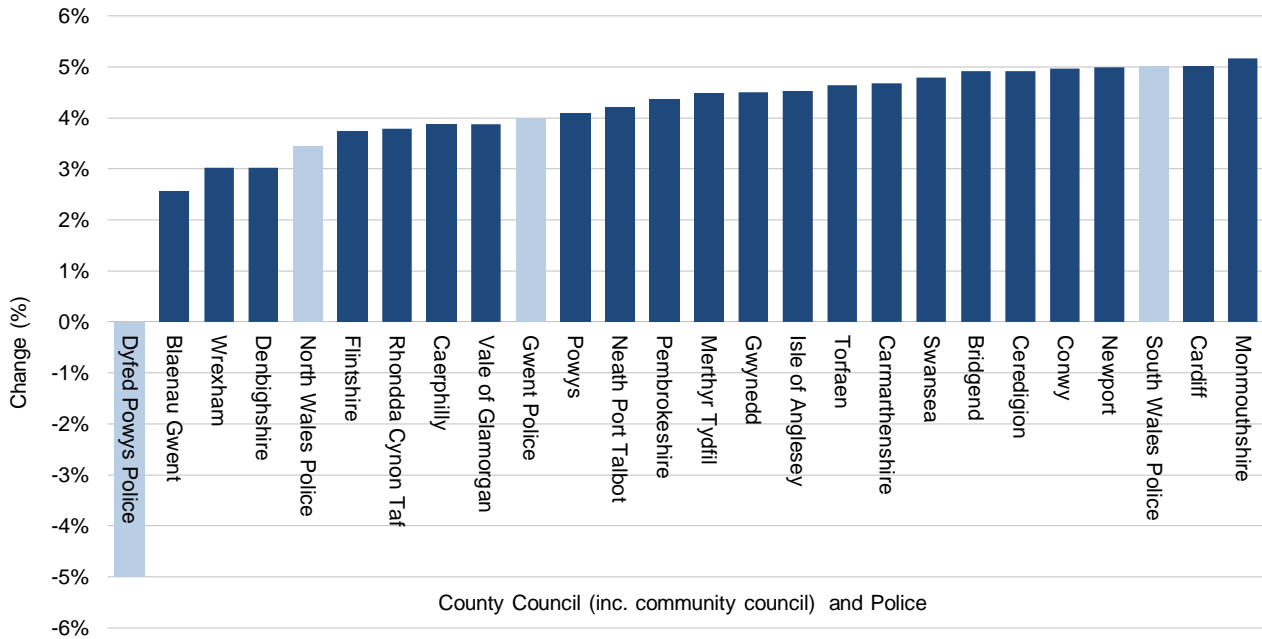
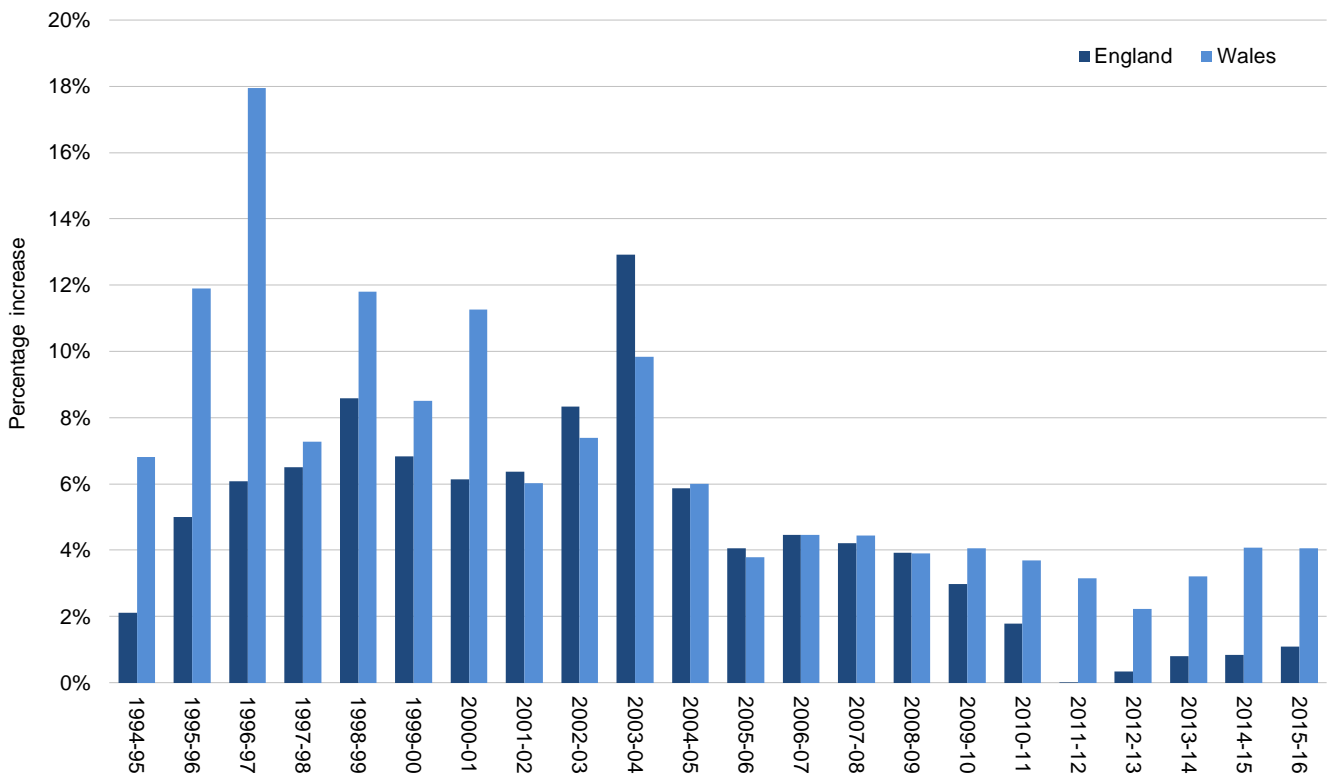


Chart 5 shows council tax rising faster in Wales up to 2000-01, albeit from a lower base. From 2001-02 to 2003-04 England had higher increases. From 2004-05 to 2008-09 the increases were similar. From 2009-10 to 2015-16 figures show a higher increase in Wales than in England. Wales band D is on average £156 less than England. For the last 5 years, central government have funded a council tax freeze for many English authorities.

**Chart 5: Year-on-year increase in band D council tax (a)**



(a) Band D council tax levels in England did not increase in 2011-12.

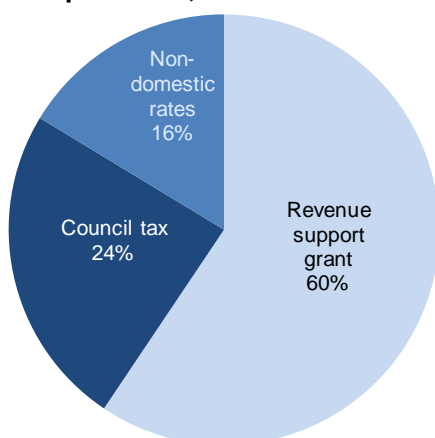
Table 3 shows that budget requirement (see notes) has decreased on average by 1.3% for counties and decreased by 1.8% for police. This reflects reduced central government support, partly offset by the increase in council tax

**Table 3: Budget requirement and council tax income**

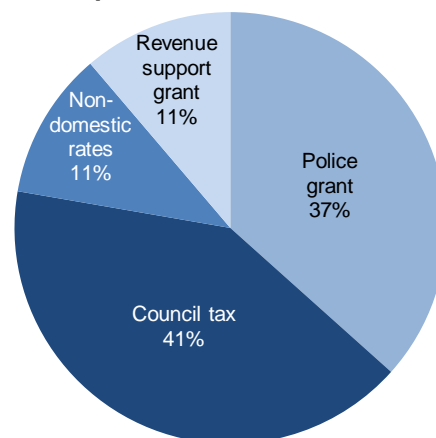
	Budget requirement				Council tax income (£m)	CT income as % of budget
	2014-15 (£m)	2015-16 (£m)	Change			
			(£m)	%		
<b>Counties:</b>						
Isle of Anglesey	126.9	125.0	-2.0	-1.5	32.0	26
Gwynedd	231.8	227.9	-3.9	-1.7	59.5	26
Conwy	207.4	203.5	-3.9	-1.9	52.2	26
Denbighshire	189.4	186.1	-3.2	-1.7	46.0	25
Flintshire	256.1	252.5	-3.6	-1.4	66.0	26
Wrexham	228.3	225.5	-2.8	-1.2	55.0	24
Powys	244.8	240.5	-4.3	-1.7	66.2	28
Ceredigion	135.4	132.8	-2.7	-2.0	33.5	25
Pembrokeshire	208.7	204.3	-4.4	-2.1	44.2	22
Carmarthenshire	337.5	333.2	-4.3	-1.3	80.8	24
Swansea	414.5	409.4	-5.2	-1.2	101.7	25
Neath Port Talbot	271.8	270.3	-1.5	-0.6	65.3	24
Bridgend	256.7	253.9	-2.8	-1.1	65.5	26
Vale of Glamorgan	216.6	214.7	-1.9	-0.9	62.2	29
Cardiff	571.4	567.0	-4.3	-0.8	142.9	25
Rhondda Cynon Taf	459.5	451.4	-8.2	-1.8	96.7	21
Merthyr Tydfil	114.1	113.3	-0.8	-0.7	24.0	21
Caerphilly	329.6	323.2	-6.4	-1.9	59.5	18
Blaenau Gwent	140.4	138.4	-2.0	-1.4	28.2	20
Torfaen	170.2	167.9	-2.4	-1.4	37.3	22
Monmouthshire	145.3	144.2	-1.1	-0.7	50.7	35
Newport	264.2	261.6	-2.5	-1.0	52.4	20
<b>Total counties</b>	<b>5,520.6</b>	<b>5,446.5</b>	<b>-74.1</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>1,321.8</b>	<b>24</b>
Dyfed Powys Police	97.9	93.3	-4.6	-4.7	43.0	46
Gwent Police	119.5	117.8	-1.7	-1.5	44.9	38
North Wales Police	141.2	139.8	-1.4	-1.0	66.7	48
South Wales Police	258.4	255.1	-3.4	-1.3	94.5	37
<b>Total police</b>	<b>617.1</b>	<b>606.0</b>	<b>-11.0</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>249.1</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Total Wales</b>	<b>6,137.6</b>	<b>6,052.5</b>	<b>-85.1</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>1,570.9</b>	<b>26</b>

Charts 6 and 7 show the funding of budget requirement separately for counties and police. The proportion of budget met from council tax for police varies from 37% for South Wales Police to 48% for North Wales Police (table 3). This same proportion varies by county from 18% for Caerphilly to 35% for Monmouthshire (table 3).

**Chart 6: Funding of Budget Requirement, 2015-16 Counties**



**Chart 7: Funding of Budget Requirement, 2015-16 Police**



## TECHNICAL NOTES ON COUNCIL TAX LEVELS IN WALES

### Billing

County and county borough councils are known as billing authorities, i.e. they collect council tax on behalf of the other charging authorities, namely police authorities and local community councils.

### Budget Requirement

Budget requirement is gross revenue expenditure less that funded by all non-police specific government grants and that expenditure funded from local authority reserves. It is the amount of expenditure which is supported by the council tax and general support from central government, i.e. revenue support grant, police grant and redistributed non-domestic rates.

Prior to 2013-14, council tax benefit grants were provided by the Department of Work and Pensions but reforms have meant that authorities in Wales are now funded from the Welsh Government through additional revenue support grant (and also council tax reduction scheme grant in 2013-14). As a result, budget requirement for 2013-14 and beyond will be higher by these amounts and not consistent with previous years.

### Quality

We publish a detailed [quality report](#) on Welsh Local Government Finance statistics

The main sources of information on council tax levels in Wales are the budget requirement (BR) returns. Wales collect 100% of returns from all twenty-two county councils and four police and crime commissioners. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) supplies figures for England. These are estimates based on data available at time of publication.

### Rounding

In tables where figures have been rounded to the nearest final digit there may be an apparent discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total as shown.

### Accessing the data

Much of the data behind the charts and tables shown in this release can be found on Statswales, a free-to-use internet service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download tables from the most up to date and detailed official data in Wales. At the navigation screen of the following site - <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Local-Government/Finance/Council-Tax/Levels>

please select:

→Local Government

→ Finance

→Council Tax

→Levels

### Further information

Statistics on council tax levels are also published in both [England](#) and [Scotland](#).

### Feedback

We actively encourage feedback of our statistics. If you have any comments or queries, then please contact using the details below

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