

SDR 47/2014

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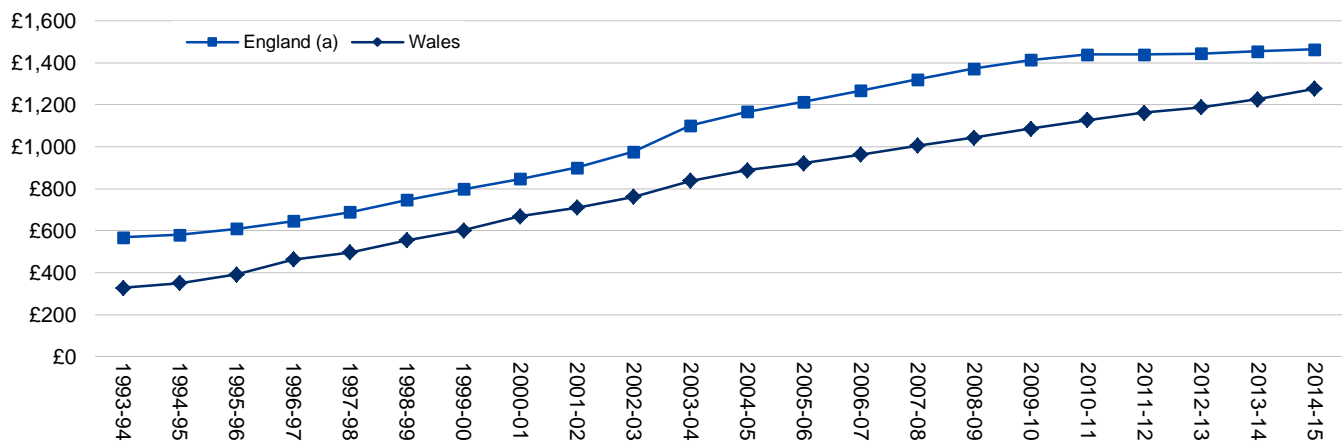
Council Tax Levels in Wales: 2014-15

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 2014-15 and changes over 2013-14.

Key points

- Average band D council tax for Wales for 2014-15 is £1,276. This includes £1,043 for county councils, £205 for police and £28 for community councils. Figures for billing authorities, including the police elements, vary from £1,005 in Pembrokeshire to £1,591 in Blaenau Gwent (table 1 and chart 3).
- County council increases in band D council tax for 2014-15 average £44 or 4.2% over the previous year. Police increases average £6 or 3.2%. These increases combine to produce an average band D rise of £50 or 4.1% (table 2 and chart 5).
- Swansea has the largest band D percentage increase (including community council and police elements) of 5.0%. Flintshire has the smallest overall band D percentage increase of 2.7% (table 2).
- In England, around 57% of authorities are estimated to freeze council tax in 2014-15 in exchange for additional funding from Central Government. The estimated average increase for English authorities is 0.6%
- Welsh average band D council tax is 87% of the latest estimated figure of £1,464 for England.

Chart 1: Average band D council tax



(a) England figures based on estimates for 2014-15 from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

Additional information is available at: www.statswales.wales.gov.uk

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Llywodraeth Cymru
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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 £907 in Caerphilly to £1,430 in Monmouthshire.

Table 1: Breakdown of band D council tax in Wales, 2014-15

| | Average band D | Of which: | | | Average per dwelling |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| | | County council element | Community council element (a) | Police authority element | |
| Isle of Anglesey | 1,242 | 981 | 33 | 228 | 1,114 |
| Gwynedd | 1,371 | 1,111 | 32 | 228 | 1,191 |
| Conwy | 1,229 | 965 | 36 | 228 | 1,120 |
| Denbighshire | 1,380 | 1,112 | 40 | 228 | 1,240 |
| Flintshire | 1,255 | 988 | 39 | 228 | 1,193 |
| Wrexham | 1,238 | 967 | 43 | 228 | 1,130 |
| Powys | 1,255 | 1,005 | 39 | 211 | 1,221 |
| Ceredigion | 1,259 | 1,019 | 29 | 211 | 1,173 |
| Pembrokeshire | 1,005 | 767 | 28 | 211 | 916 |
| Cardiff | 1,166 | 974 | 2 | 190 | 1,158 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 1,461 | 1,248 | 23 | 190 | 1,043 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 1,486 | 1,294 | 1 | 190 | 1,014 |
| Swansea | 1,280 | 1,080 | 10 | 190 | 1,083 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 1,542 | 1,313 | 39 | 190 | 1,128 |
| Bridgend | 1,413 | 1,192 | 31 | 190 | 1,176 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 1,261 | 1,029 | 41 | 190 | 1,281 |
| Caerphilly | 1,169 | 955 | 11 | 204 | 907 |
| Blaenau Gwent | 1,591 | 1,371 | 17 | 204 | 1,002 |
| Torfaen | 1,294 | 1,048 | 42 | 204 | 1,041 |
| Monmouthshire | 1,285 | 1,043 | 38 | 204 | 1,430 |
| Newport | 1,101 | 893 | 4 | 204 | 966 |
| Wales average | 1,276 | 1,043 | 28 | 205 | 1,115 |

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

Chart 2 shows average per dwelling compared with the Wales average in 2014-15. Caerphilly's average per dwelling is £208 less than the Welsh average and Monmouthshire is £316 more than the Wales average.

Chart 2: Difference in average council tax per dwelling compared with the Welsh average, 2014-15

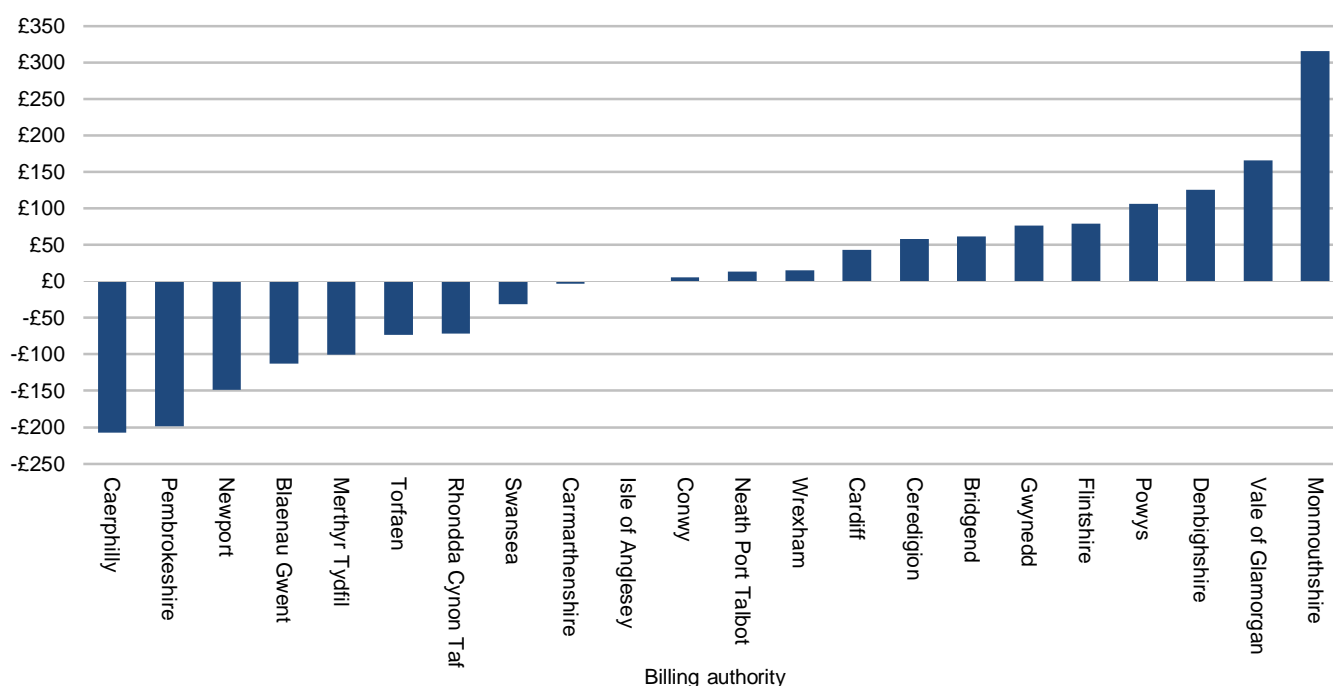


Chart 3 shows the average band D council tax for all billing authorities. Blaenau Gwent has the largest average band D council tax whilst Pembrokeshire has the smallest average band D council tax.

Chart 3: Average band D council tax, 2014-15

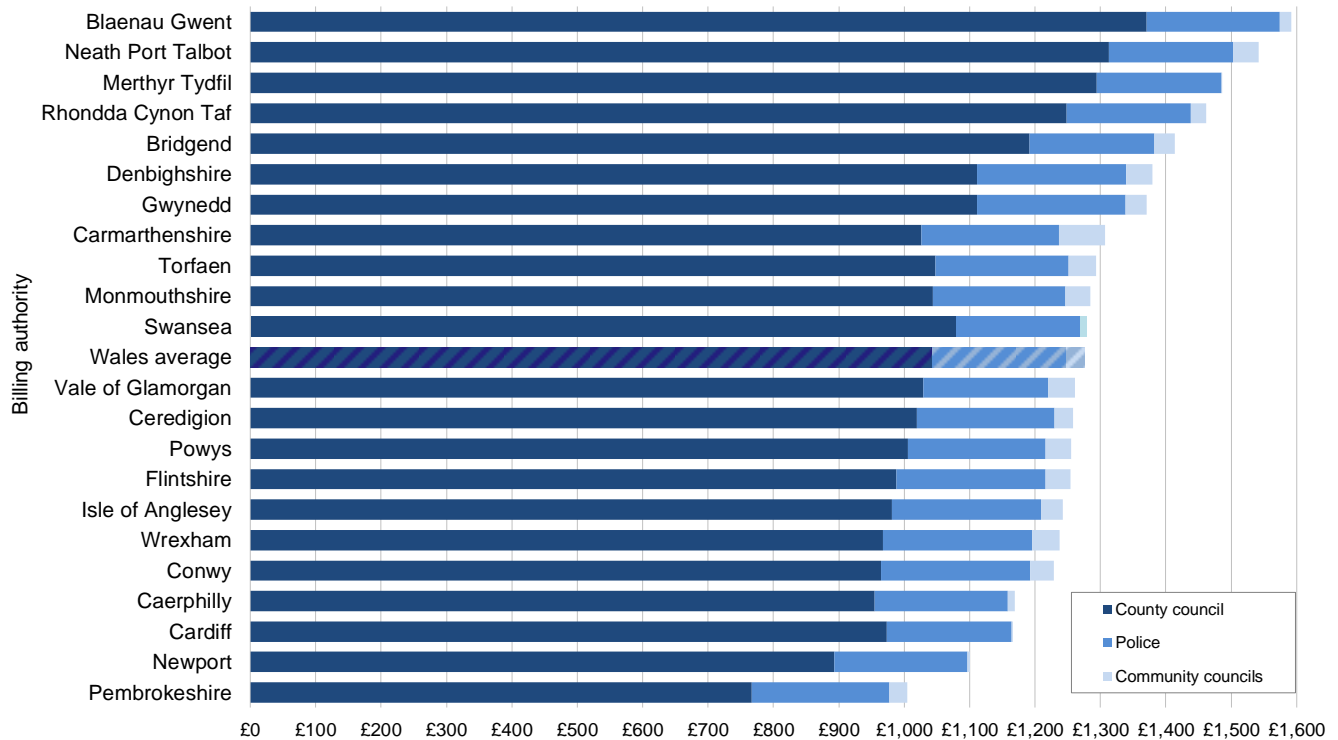


Table 2 shows the increases in average band D council tax compared to the previous year for counties (including community councils) and police. Swansea has the largest percentage increase of 5.0%. All other authorities have increased by at least 2.7% with a Wales county average of 4.2%. Of the police, South Wales Police has the largest band D increase of £9 or 5.0% and North Wales Police has the smallest band D percentage increase of 2.0%. The overall Wales average increase including police elements is 4.1%

Table 2: Increases in average band D council tax

| | 2013-14 £ | 2014-15 £ | Overall increase £ | Of which: | | Overall increase % | Due to: | | Police authority area |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | (a) County £ | Police £ | | (a) County % | Police % | |
| Isle of Anglesey | 1,194 | 1,242 | 48 | 44 | 4 | 4.0 | 4.5 | 2.0 | |
| Gwynedd | 1,323 | 1,371 | 48 | 43 | 4 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 2.0 | |
| Conwy | 1,176 | 1,229 | 52 | 48 | 4 | 4.5 | 5.0 | 2.0 | North Wales |
| Denbighshire | 1,336 | 1,380 | 43 | 39 | 4 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 2.0 | |
| Flintshire | 1,221 | 1,255 | 34 | 29 | 4 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.0 | |
| Wrexham | 1,201 | 1,238 | 38 | 33 | 5 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 2.0 | |
| Powys | 1,203 | 1,255 | 52 | 48 | 4 | 4.3 | 4.8 | 2.1 | Dyfed Powys |
| Ceredigion | 1,205 | 1,259 | 53 | 49 | 4 | 4.4 | 4.9 | 2.1 | |
| Pembrokeshire | 974 | 1,005 | 30 | 26 | 4 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 2.1 | |
| Carmarthenshire | 1,254 | 1,307 | 53 | 49 | 4 | 4.2 | 4.7 | 2.1 | |
| Swansea | 1,220 | 1,280 | 61 | 52 | 9 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | |
| Neath Port Talbot | 1,476 | 1,542 | 67 | 58 | 9 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 5.0 | |
| Bridgend | 1,347 | 1,413 | 67 | 57 | 9 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 5.0 | South Wales |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 1,206 | 1,261 | 54 | 45 | 9 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 5.0 | |
| Cardiff | 1,120 | 1,166 | 46 | 37 | 9 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 5.0 | |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 1,398 | 1,461 | 63 | 54 | 9 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 5.0 | |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 1,428 | 1,486 | 58 | 49 | 9 | 4.1 | 3.9 | 5.0 | |
| Caerphilly | 1,128 | 1,169 | 41 | 36 | 5 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 2.7 | |
| Blaenau Gwent | 1,526 | 1,591 | 66 | 60 | 5 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 2.7 | Gwent |
| Torfaen | 1,246 | 1,294 | 47 | 42 | 5 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 2.7 | |
| Monmouthshire | 1,236 | 1,285 | 48 | 43 | 5 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 2.7 | |
| Newport | 1,057 | 1,101 | 44 | 38 | 5 | 4.1 | 4.5 | 2.7 | |
| Wales average | 1,226 | 1,276 | 50 | 44 | 6 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 3.2 | |

(a) Including community council precepts.

Chart 4 shows the average increases in council tax compared to the previous year. The average increase for Wales is £50. This comprised of £44 for county councils and £6 for police.

Chart 4: Increase in average band D council tax, 2014-15

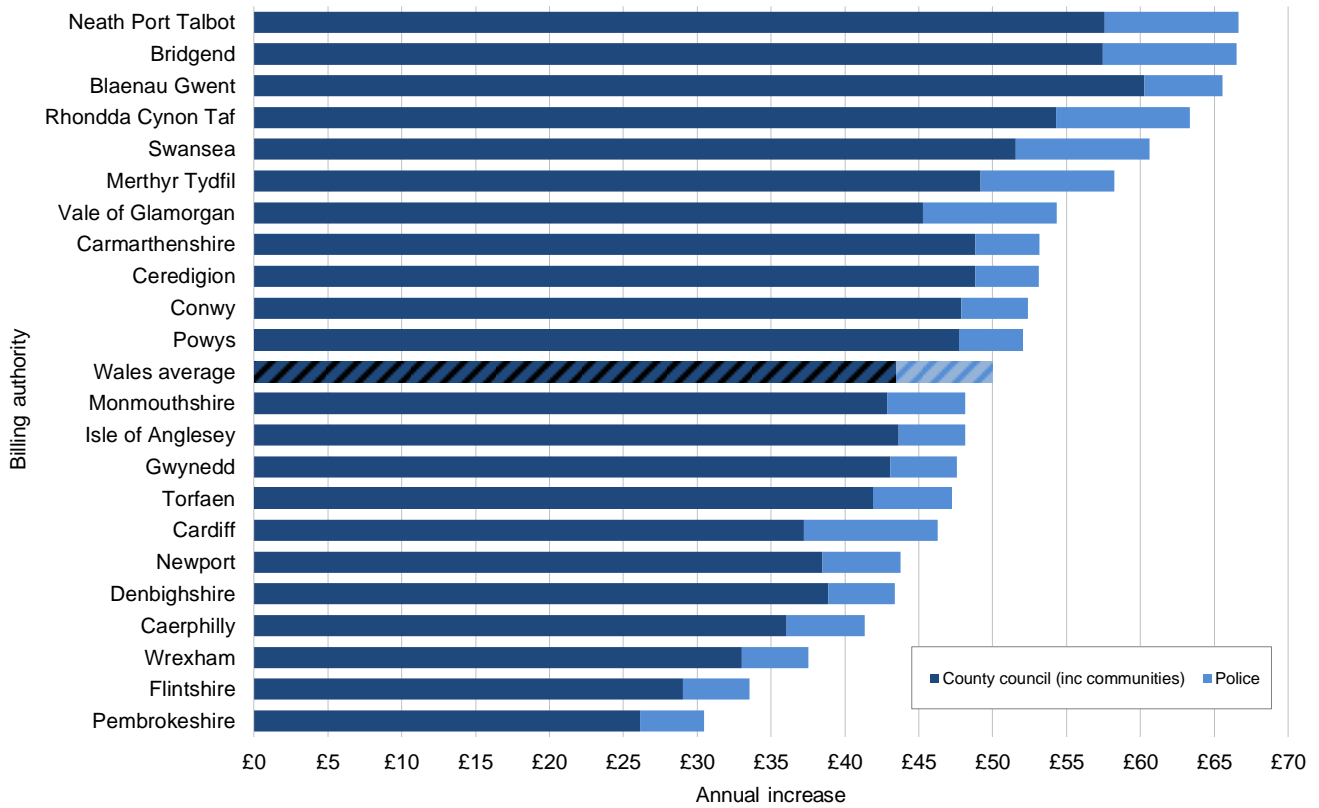
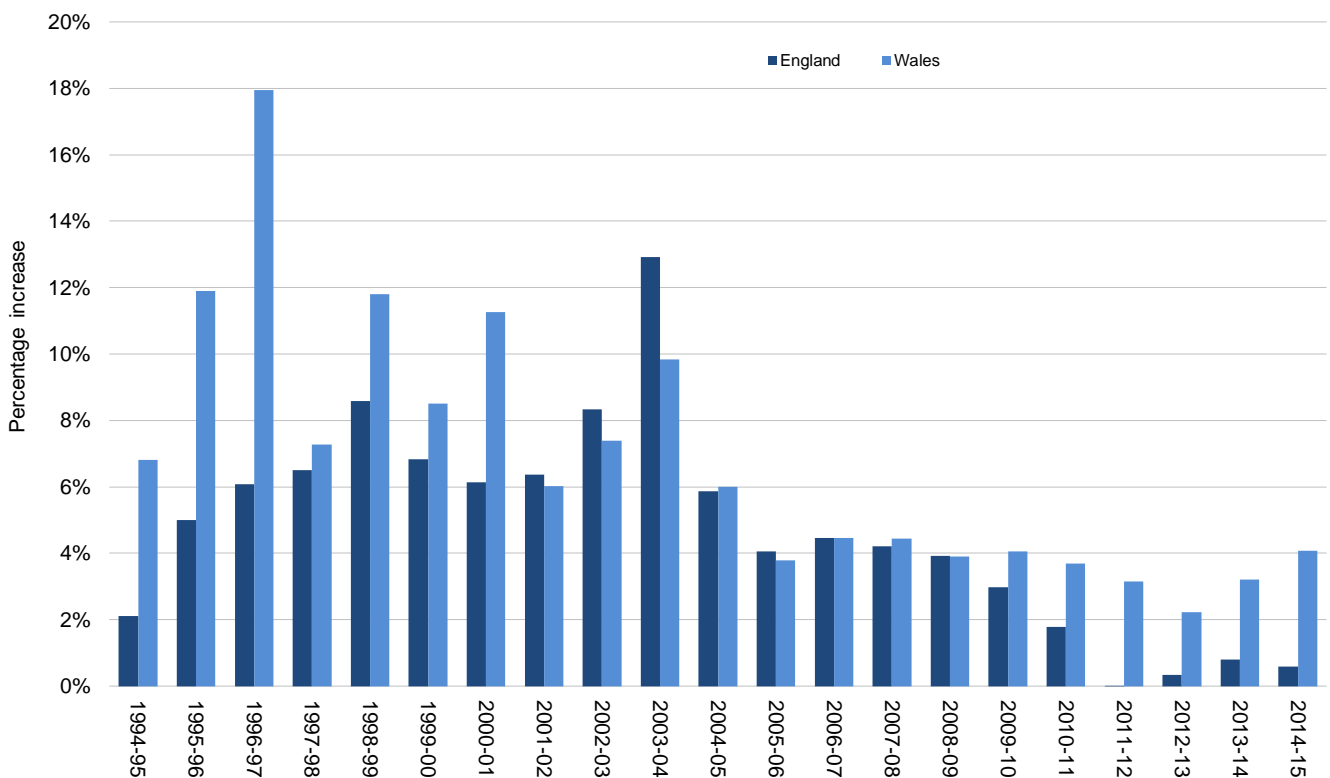


Chart 5 shows council tax rising faster in Wales up to 2000-01, albeit from a lower base. From 2001-02 to 2003-04 England had higher increases. From 2004-05 to 2008-09 the increases were similar. From 2009-10 to 2014-15 figures show a higher increase in Wales than in England. Wales band D is on average £190 less than England, this is approximately the same as 1997-98. For the last 4 years, central government have funded a council tax freeze for 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 has decreased on average by 1.2% for counties and decreased by 0.3% for police. This reflects reduced central government support, partly offset by the increase in Council Tax income.

Table 3: Budget requirement and council tax income

| | Budget requirement | | Change | | Council tax income (£m) | CT income as % of budget |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| | 2013-14 (£m) | 2014-15 (£m) | (£m) | % | | |
| Counties: | | | | | | |
| Isle of Anglesey | 129.5 | 126.9 | -2.5 | -2.0 | 30.5 | 24 |
| Gwynedd | 236.2 | 231.8 | -4.5 | -1.9 | 56.8 | 25 |
| (a) Conwy | 206.0 | 207.4 | 1.4 | 0.7 | 49.6 | 24 |
| (a) Denbighshire | 193.1 | 189.4 | -3.8 | -2.0 | 44.2 | 23 |
| Flintshire | 260.6 | 256.1 | -4.5 | -1.7 | 63.2 | 25 |
| (a) Wrexham | 230.7 | 228.3 | -2.5 | -1.1 | 53.1 | 23 |
| Powys | 250.3 | 244.8 | -5.5 | -2.2 | 62.7 | 26 |
| (a) Ceredigion | 137.7 | 135.4 | -2.3 | -1.7 | 31.8 | 23 |
| (a) Pembrokeshire | 213.3 | 208.7 | -4.6 | -2.1 | 42.0 | 20 |
| Carmarthenshire | 344.0 | 337.5 | -6.5 | -1.9 | 76.6 | 23 |
| Swansea | 420.4 | 414.5 | -5.8 | -1.4 | 96.3 | 23 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 278.1 | 271.8 | -6.3 | -2.3 | 62.1 | 23 |
| (a) Bridgend | 257.4 | 256.7 | -0.7 | -0.3 | 61.8 | 24 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 220.9 | 216.6 | -4.3 | -2.0 | 58.9 | 27 |
| Cardiff | 578.9 | 571.4 | -7.6 | -1.3 | 135.4 | 24 |
| (a) Rhondda Cynon Taf | 465.9 | 459.5 | -6.3 | -1.4 | 92.2 | 20 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 115.3 | 114.1 | -1.1 | -1.0 | 22.8 | 20 |
| (a) Caerphilly | 328.9 | 329.6 | 0.7 | 0.2 | 57.0 | 17 |
| Blaenau Gwent | 144.0 | 140.4 | -3.6 | -2.5 | 27.3 | 19 |
| Torfaen | 173.0 | 170.2 | -2.8 | -1.6 | 34.8 | 20 |
| Monmouthshire | 148.1 | 145.3 | -2.8 | -1.9 | 47.8 | 33 |
| (a) Newport | 255.0 | 264.2 | 9.1 | 3.6 | 49.3 | 19 |
| Total counties | 5,587.3 | 5,520.6 | -66.8 | -1.2 | 1,256.1 | 23 |
| Dyfed Powys Police | 98.2 | 97.9 | -0.3 | -0.3 | 44.9 | 46 |
| Gwent Police | 120.3 | 119.5 | -0.8 | -0.7 | 42.7 | 36 |
| North Wales Police | 141.7 | 141.2 | -0.5 | -0.4 | 64.1 | 45 |
| South Wales Police | 258.6 | 258.4 | -0.1 | -0.0 | 89.2 | 35 |
| Total police | 618.8 | 617.1 | -1.7 | -0.3 | 240.9 | 39 |
| Total Wales | 6,206.1 | 6,137.6 | -68.5 | -1.1 | 1,497.0 | 24 |

(a) The annual changes in Budget Requirement for some Local Authorities show an increase rather than a decrease. This is due to the transfer of the Private Finance Initiative grant into the RSG in 2014-15. For the 9 Authorities with PFI commitments, this funding would not have been included in the Budget Requirement figure for previous years, meaning that the figures are not comparable with 2013-14 on a like for like basis.

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 35% for South Wales Police to 46% for Dyfed Powys Police (table 3). This same proportion varies by county from 17% for Caerphilly to 33% for Monmouthshire (table 3).

Chart 6: Funding of Budget Requirement, 2014-15 Counties

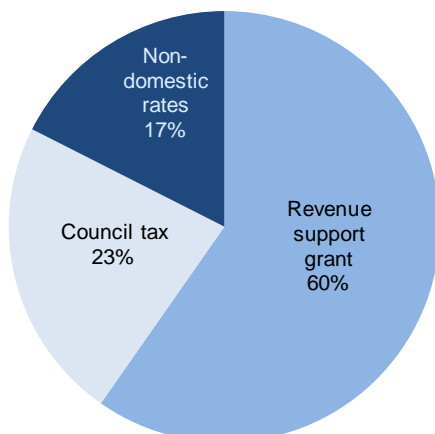
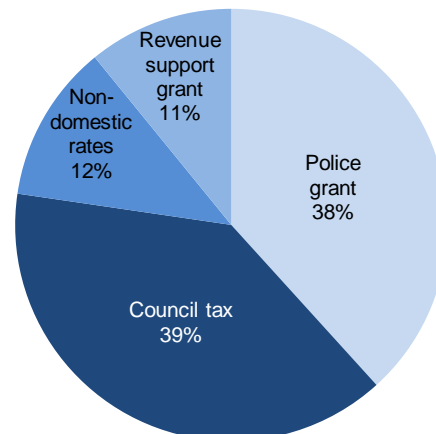


Chart 7: Funding of Budget Requirement, 2014-15 Police



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. We also publish detail on our [users](#). We would appreciate any feedback on the content and usefulness of the quality report.

Data sources

The main sources of information on council tax levels in Wales are the budget requirement (BR) returns from county councils and police and crime commissioners.

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 - www.statswales.wales.gov.uk, 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, or require further information or copies, then please contact using the details below.

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