

SDR 46/2013

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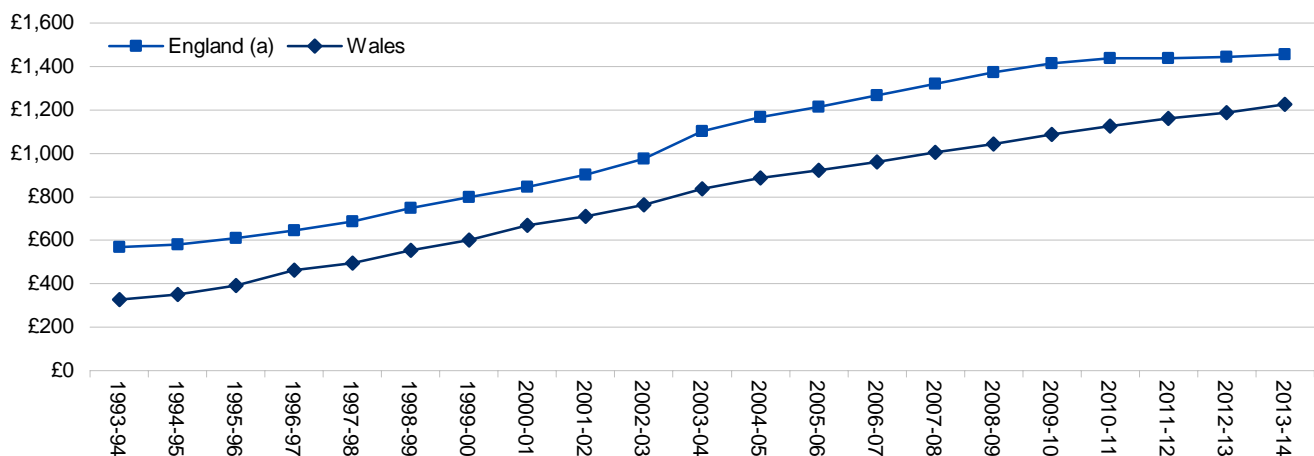
COUNCIL TAX LEVELS IN WALES: 2013-14

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. Properties in each local authority are 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 2013-14 and changes over 2012-13.

Key points

- Average band D council tax for Wales for 2013-14 is £1,226. This includes £1,000 for county councils, £199 for police and £27 for community councils. Figures for billing authorities, including the police elements, vary from £974 in Pembrokeshire to £1,526 in Blaenau Gwent (table 1 and chart 3).
- County council increases in band D council tax for 2013-14 average £29 or 2.9%. Police increases average £9 or 4.8%. These increases combine to produce an average band D rise of £38 or 3.2% (table 2 and chart 5).
- Vale of Glamorgan has the largest band D percentage increase (including community council and police elements) of 5.0%. Monmouthshire has the smallest overall band D percentage increase of 0.6% (table 2).
- In England, around 59% of authorities are estimated to freeze council tax in 2013-14 in exchange for additional funding from Central Government. The estimated average increase for English authorities is 0.8%
- Welsh average band D council tax is 84% of the latest estimated figure of £1,456 for England.

Chart 1: Average band D council tax



(a) England figures based on estimates for 2013-14 from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

Additional information is available at: 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 £874 in Caerphilly to £1,378 in Monmouthshire.

Table 1: Breakdown of band D council tax in Wales, 2013-14

	Average band D	Of which:			Average per dwelling
		County council element	Community council element (a)	Police authority element	
Isle of Anglesey	1,194	939	32	223	1,062
Gwynedd	1,323	1,069	31	223	1,132
Conwy	1,176	919	34	223	1,073
Denbighshire	1,336	1,074	39	223	1,192
Flintshire	1,221	959	39	223	1,144
Wrexham	1,201	939	38	223	1,095
Powys	1,203	962	34	206	1,161
Ceredigion	1,205	971	29	206	1,121
Pembrokeshire	974	741	27	206	892
Carmarthenshire	1,254	980	68	206	1,049
Swansea	1,220	1,029	10	181	1,026
Neath Port Talbot	1,476	1,256	38	181	1,077
Bridgend	1,347	1,135	30	181	1,114
Vale of Glamorgan	1,206	985	40	181	1,211
Cardiff	1,120	937	2	181	1,108
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,398	1,194	22	181	995
Merthyr Tydfil	1,428	1,245	1	181	962
Caerphilly	1,128	919	11	198	874
Blaenau Gwent	1,526	1,310	17	198	960
Torfaen	1,246	1,008	40	198	971
Monmouthshire	1,236	1,004	35	198	1,378
Newport	1,057	855	4	198	909
Wales average	1,226	1,000	27	199	1,063

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

Chart 2 shows average per dwelling compared with the Wales average in 2013-14. Caerphilly's average per dwelling is £189 less than the Welsh average and Monmouthshire is £314 more than the Wales average.

Chart 2: Difference in average council tax per dwelling compared with the Welsh average, 2013-14

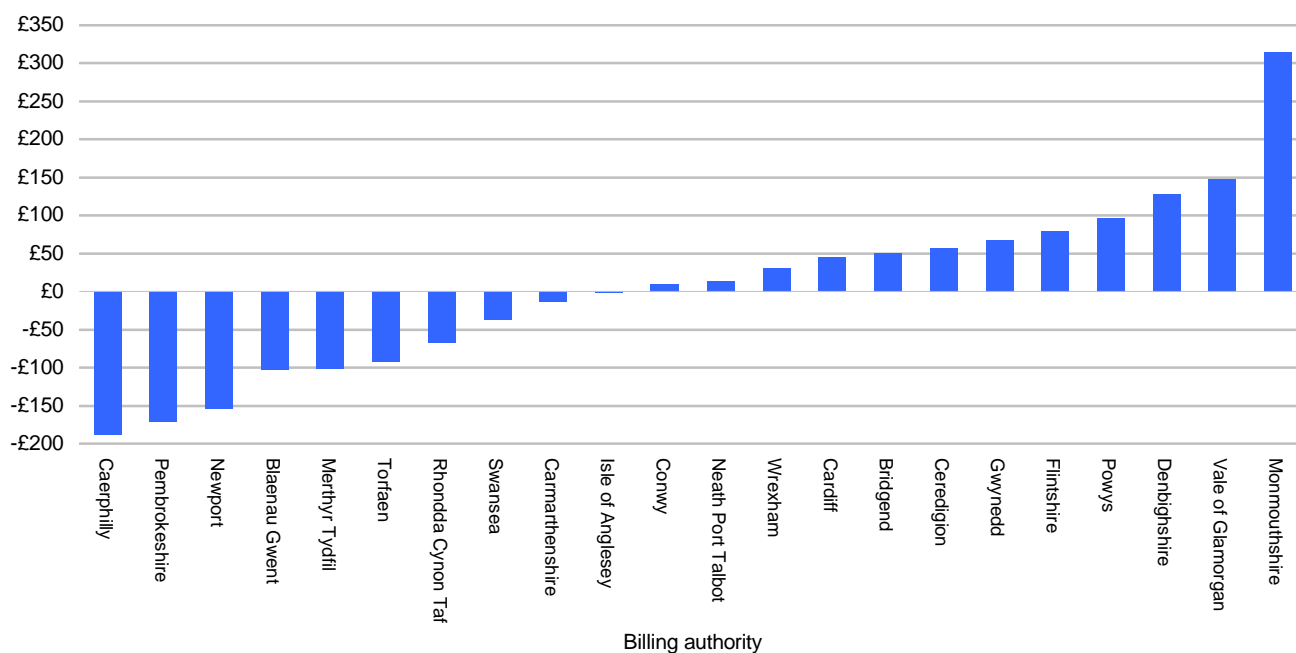


Chart 3 shows the average band D council tax for all billing authorities. Blaenau Gwent has the largest average band D council tax whilst Pembrokeshire has the smallest average band D council tax.

Chart 3: Average band D council tax, 2013-14

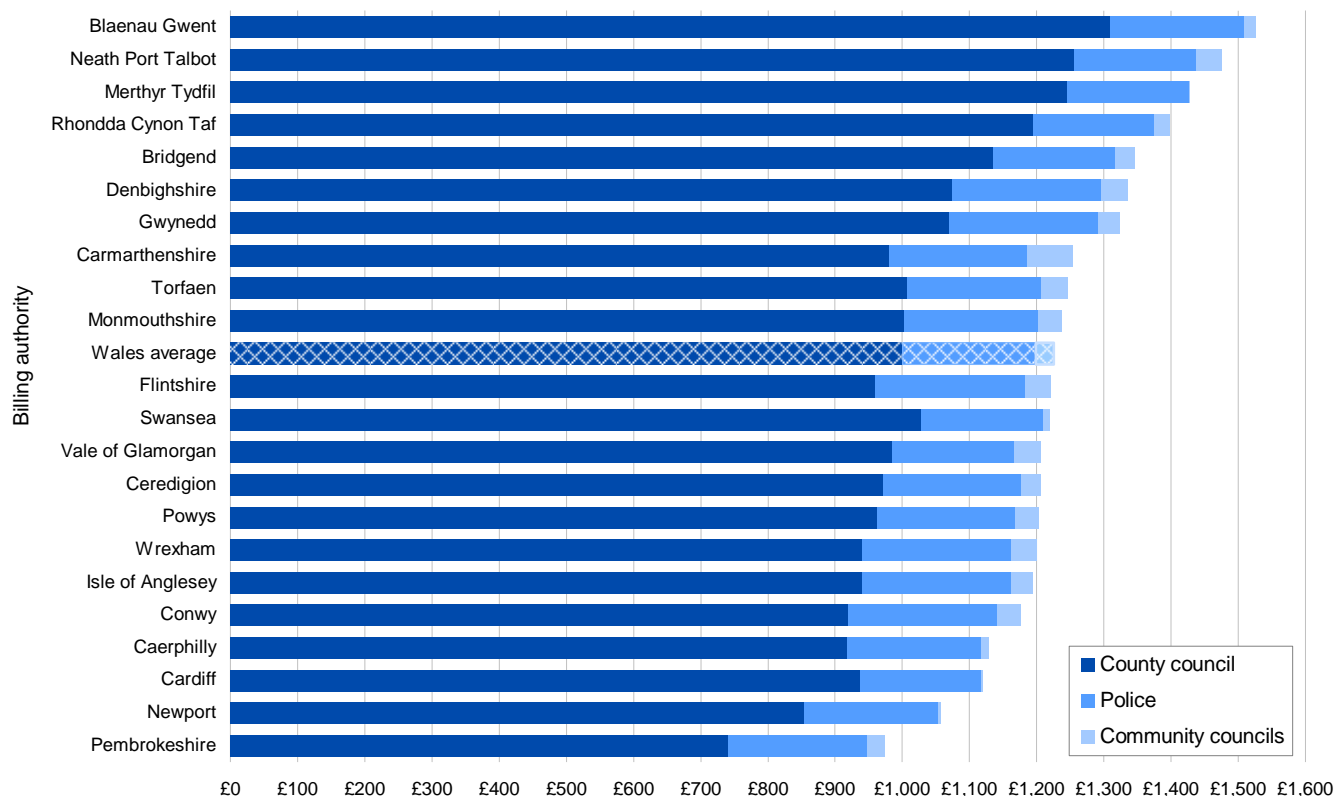


Table 2 shows the increases in average band D council tax compared to the previous year for counties (including community councils) and police. Cardiff have frozen their county element of council tax and Monmouthshire have a small increase of £2 or 0.2% due to the community council element. All other county elements have increased by at least 2% with a Wales average of 2.9%. Of the police, South Wales Police has the largest band D increase of £12 or 7.0% and Gwent Police has the smallest band D percentage increase of 2.7%. The overall Wales average increase including police elements is 3.2%

Table 2: Increases in average band D council tax

	2012-13 £	2013-14 £	Overall increase £	Of which:		Overall increase %	Due to:		Police authority area
				(a) County £	Police £		(a) County %	Police %	
Isle of Anglesey	1,140	1,194	54	46	9	4.8	5.0	4.0	
Gwynedd	1,278	1,323	46	37	9	3.6	3.5	4.0	
Conwy	1,130	1,176	46	37	9	4.1	4.1	4.0	North Wales
Denbighshire	1,306	1,336	31	22	9	2.3	2.0	4.0	
Flintshire	1,184	1,221	37	29	9	3.1	3.0	4.0	
Wrexham	1,166	1,201	35	26	9	3.0	2.7	4.0	
Powys	1,168	1,203	34	27	8	2.9	2.8	3.9	Dyfed Powys
Ceredigion	1,169	1,205	36	28	8	3.1	2.9	3.9	
Pembrokeshire	945	974	30	22	8	3.2	3.0	3.9	
Carmarthenshire	1,216	1,254	38	30	8	3.1	3.0	3.9	
Swansea	1,170	1,220	49	38	12	4.2	3.8	7.0	
Neath Port Talbot	1,416	1,476	59	47	12	4.2	3.8	7.0	
Bridgend	1,296	1,347	51	39	12	3.9	3.4	7.0	South Wales
Vale of Glamorgan	1,149	1,206	58	46	12	5.0	4.7	7.0	
Cardiff	1,108	1,120	12	0	12	1.1	0.0	7.0	
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,340	1,398	58	46	12	4.3	3.9	7.0	
Merthyr Tydfil	1,377	1,428	51	39	12	3.7	3.2	7.0	
Caerphilly	1,100	1,128	27	22	5	2.5	2.5	2.7	
Blaenau Gwent	1,463	1,526	63	58	5	4.3	4.6	2.7	Gwent
Torfaen	1,208	1,246	38	33	5	3.2	3.3	2.7	
Monmouthshire	1,229	1,236	8	2	5	0.6	0.2	2.7	
Newport	1,023	1,057	34	29	5	3.3	3.5	2.7	
Wales average	1,188	1,226	38	29	9	3.2	2.9	4.8	

(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 £38. This comprised of £29 for county councils and £9 for police.

Chart 4: Increase in average band D council tax, 2013-14

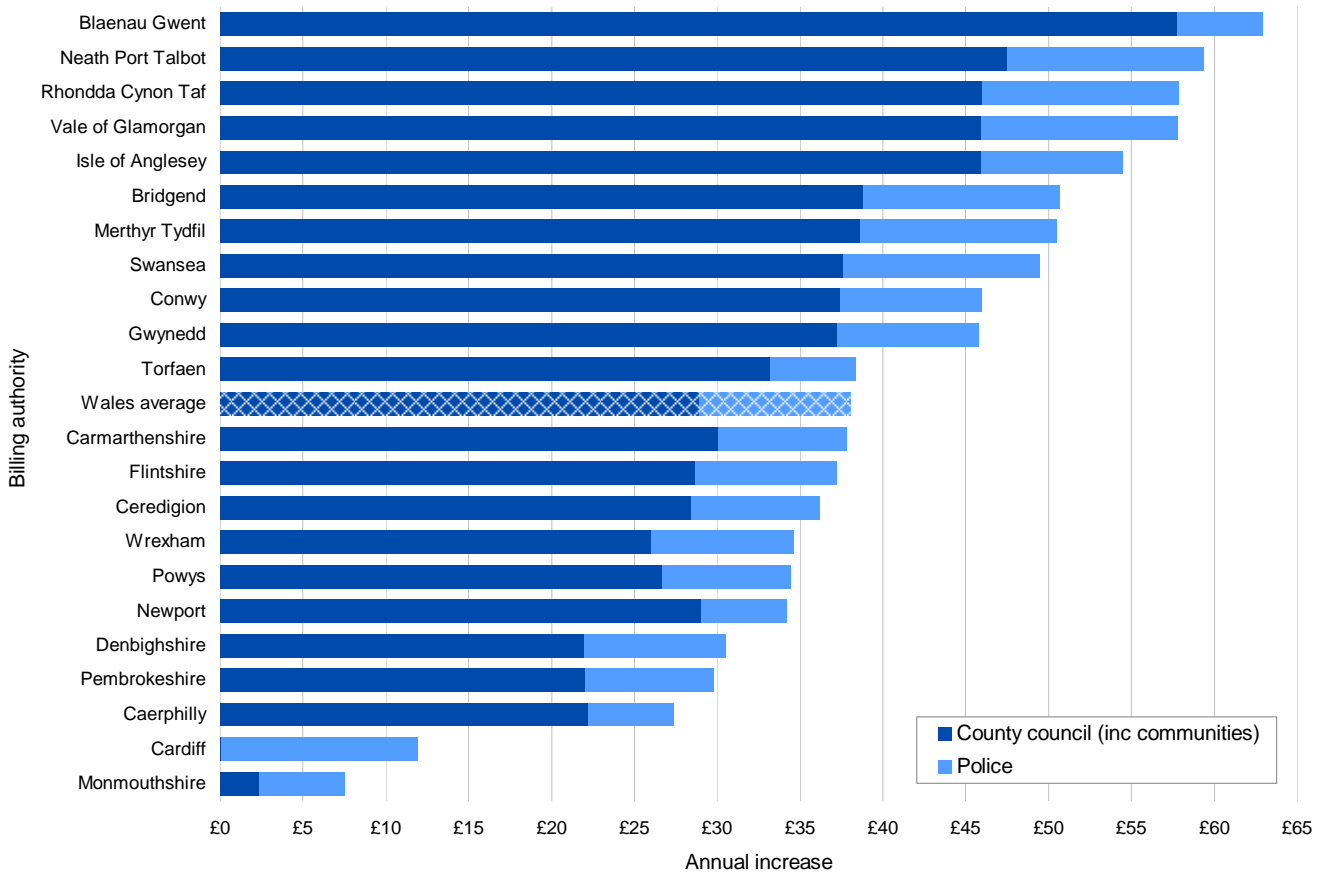
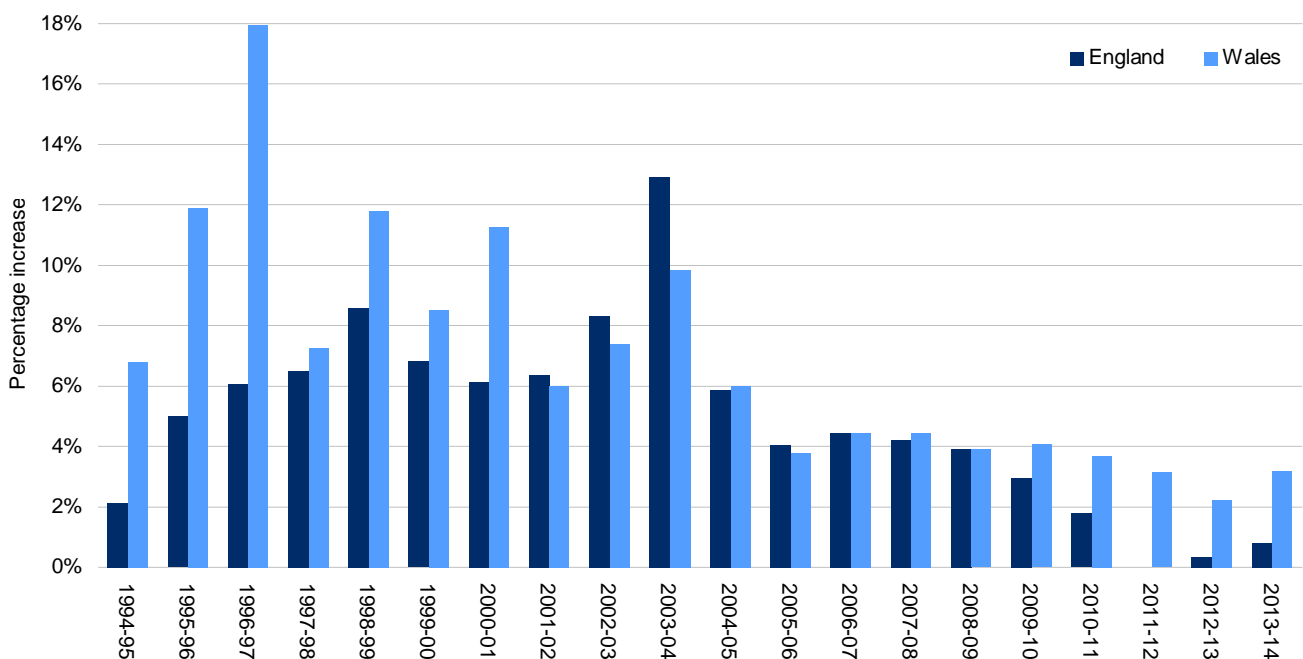


Chart 5 shows council tax rising faster in Wales up to 2000-01, albeit from a lower base. From 2001-02 to 2003-04 England had higher increases. From 2004-05 to 2008-09 the increases were similar. From 2009-10 to 2013-14 figures show a higher increase in Wales than in England. For the last 3 years, central 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 budget requirement for counties and police. Police budget requirement has increased by 3.1%. County increases are not applicable due to the discontinuation of council tax benefit and the introduction of the council tax reduction scheme (see footnote below).

Table 3: Budget requirement and council tax income

	Budget requirement				Council tax income (£m)	CT income as % of budget
	2012-13 (£m)	2013-14 (£m)	Change			
			(£m)	%		
Counties:						
Isle of Anglesey	120.0	129.5	.	.	28.8	22
Gwynedd	220.8	236.2	.	.	53.8	23
Conwy	189.3	206.0	.	.	47.1	23
Denbighshire	178.9	193.1	.	.	42.3	22
Flintshire	243.4	260.6	.	.	60.1	23
Wrexham	212.5	230.7	.	.	51.1	22
Powys	235.3	250.3	.	.	58.9	24
Ceredigion	129.2	137.7	.	.	30.1	22
Pembrokeshire	199.4	213.3	.	.	40.4	19
Carmarthenshire	320.1	344.0	.	.	71.6	21
Swansea	388.0	420.4	.	.	90.9	22
Neath Port Talbot	254.9	278.1	.	.	59.2	21
Bridgend	235.7	257.4	.	.	58.4	23
Vale of Glamorgan	205.2	220.9	.	.	55.7	25
Cardiff	530.4	578.9	.	.	129.5	22
Rhondda Cynon Taf	430.9	465.9	.	.	88.1	19
Merthyr Tydfil	106.8	115.3	.	.	21.6	19
Caerphilly	306.4	328.9	.	.	54.6	17
Blaenau Gwent	132.6	144.0	.	.	26.1	18
Torfaen	160.7	173.0	.	.	32.4	19
Monmouthshire	139.4	148.1	.	.	45.8	31
Newport	237.5	255.0	.	.	46.0	18
Total counties	5,177.3	5,587.3	.	.	1,192.3	21
Dyfed Powys Police	95.7	98.2	2.5	2.6	43.4	44
Gwent Police	117.5	120.3	2.9	2.4	41.0	34
North Wales Police	137.6	141.7	4.1	3.0	62.1	44
South Wales Police	249.3	258.6	9.2	3.7	84.4	33
Total police	600.1	618.8	18.7	3.1	230.9	37
Total Wales	5,777.4	6,206.1	.	.	1,423.1	23

County year-on-year changes are not comparable because of the discontinuation of council tax benefit. Previously council tax benefit grants were provided by the Department of Work and Pensions but reforms mean that authorities in Wales are now funded through additional revenue support grant and council tax reduction scheme grant from the Welsh Government. As a result, budget requirement for 2013-14 is higher by these amounts and not consistent with previous years. The statistical release to be published in June 2013 on revenue budgets will show changes to budgeted expenditure on a consistent 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 33% for South Wales Police to 44% for Dyfed Powys Police and North Wales Police (table 3). This same proportion varies by county from 17% for Caerphilly to 31% for Monmouthshire (table 3).

Chart 6: Funding of Budget Requirement, 2013-14 Counties

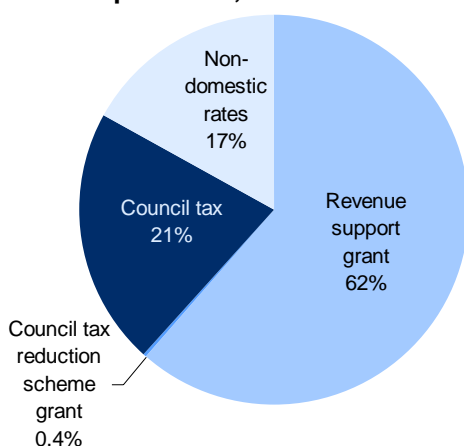
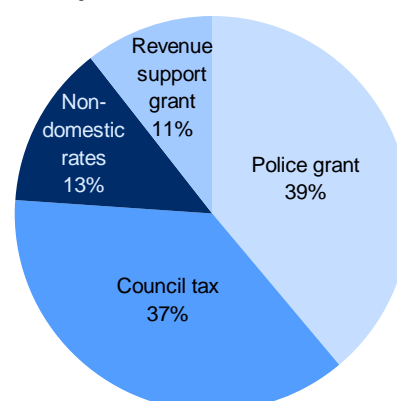


Chart 7: Funding of Budget Requirement, 2013-14 Police



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.

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

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