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21 June 2004

COUNCIL TAX INFORMATION LETTER 3/2004

This is Council Tax Information Letter 3/2004. The topics covered in this letter are:

- **Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates Collection Rates 2003/04**
- **Council Tax Collection Good Practice Research Report**

Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates Collection Rates 2003/04

Information about the council tax and non-domestic rates collection rates for 2003/04 from returns provided by all 354 English billing authorities was published today. The headlines are that overall the overall collection rate is up (by 0.1% to 96.5%) as is the total amount collected (by £15 million).

Details can be found in the ODPM News Release 2004/0145 using the following link:

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2004_0145

The tables with the detailed figures can be obtained using the following link:

<http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/ctax/cp034.htm>

We are currently finalising the arrangements for the joint ODPM/LGA working level seminar which is mentioned in the press release. This seminar will focus particularly on those billing authorities with the lowest collection rates to see what they can learn from higher performing authorities. This will be an invitation only event, but we plan to make the conclusions widely available.

Council Tax Collection Good Practice Research report

ODPM has also published today a report entitled "**Council Tax Collection Good Practice**" which looks at ways of sharing good practice among local authorities to promote continuous improvement in service delivery and collection. The report can be viewed on our website by using the following link:

<http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/ctax/goodprac.pdf>

We are currently considering how best to take this forward - watch this space for further information.

Contact

If you have any enquiries about anything in this letter, please contact Brian Entwistle on 020 7944 4186 or fax to 020 7944 4179. Email: council.tax@odpm.gsi.gov.uk

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Benton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'S' at the beginning.

STEPHEN BENTON