



Council Tax Levels in Wales: 2024-25

21 March 2024
SFR 20/2024

- Average band D council tax for Wales for 2024-25 is £2,024. This includes £1,631 for county councils, £348 for police and £46 for community councils. Band D figures for billing authorities, including police and community councils, vary from £1,813 in Caerphilly to £2,329 in Merthyr Tydfil.
- County council increases in band D council tax for 2024-25 average £122 or 7.8% over the previous year. Police increases average £23 or 7.1%. These increases combine to produce an average band D rise of £145 or 7.7%.
- Pembrokeshire has the largest overall band D percentage increase of 11.2%. Torfaen has the smallest overall band D percentage increase of 5.4%.
- South Wales Police have the largest band D increase of 8.7%. North Wales Police have the smallest band D increase of 5.0%.
- In England, the estimated Band D percentage increase is 5.1%.
- Welsh average band D council tax is 93% of the latest estimated figure of £2,171 for England.

About this release

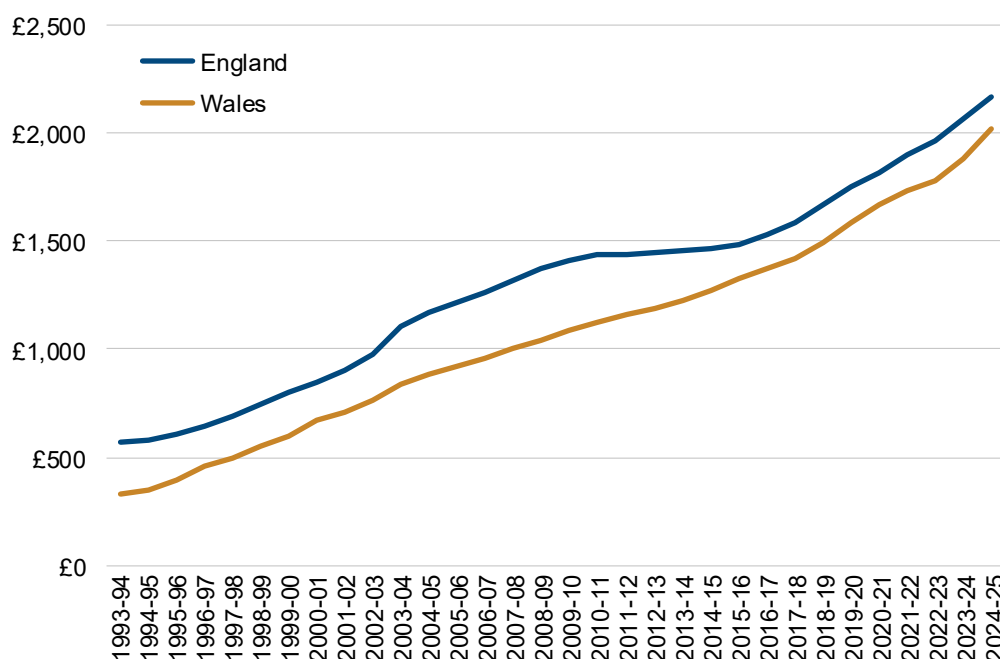
Council tax is a tax on domestic property set by local authorities in order to collect sufficient revenue to meet their demand. It is calculated based on the council tax band assigned to each dwelling in each local authority which are each assigned to one of nine valuation bands: A to I. This release provides details of the levels of average band D and average per dwelling council tax in Welsh local authorities for the financial year 2024-245 and changes when compared to 2023-24.

Additional information is available from the [StatsWales website](https://stats.wales.gov.uk/).

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Figure 1: Average band D council tax, 1993-94 to 2024-25



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 £1,412 in Caerphilly to £2,379 in Monmouthshire.

Average band D council tax for Wales for 2024-25 is £2,024. This includes £1,631 for county councils, £348 for police and £46 for community councils. Band D figures for billing authorities, including police and community councils, vary from £1,813 in Caerphilly to £2,329 in Merthyr Tydfil.

Table 1: Breakdown of band D and average per dwelling council tax in Wales, 2024-25

	£				
	Of which:				
	Average band D	County council element	Community council element (a)	Police authority element	Average per dwelling
Isle of Anglesey	1,982	1,572	60	350	1,909
Gwynedd	2,161	1,755	56	350	2,095
Conwy	2,136	1,733	53	350	2,000
Denbighshire	2,090	1,679	62	350	1,937
Flintshire	2,062	1,658	55	350	1,970
Wrexham	2,014	1,598	66	350	1,833
Powys	2,054	1,639	83	332	2,056
Ceredigion	2,104	1,726	46	332	2,098
Pembrokeshire	1,885	1,511	43	332	1,990
Carmarthenshire	2,048	1,603	113	332	1,796
Swansea	2,018	1,642	24	353	1,739
Neath Port Talbot	2,281	1,872	57	353	1,722
Bridgend	2,245	1,834	57	353	1,923
Vale of Glamorgan	1,973	1,563	58	353	2,076
Cardiff	1,827	1,471	4	353	1,840
Rhondda Cynon Taf	2,082	1,695	35	353	1,547
Merthyr Tydfil	2,329	1,975	2	353	1,648
Caerphilly	1,813	1,446	17	350	1,412
Blaenau Gwent	2,303	1,920	34	350	1,498
Torfaen	1,952	1,551	52	350	1,587
Monmouthshire	2,111	1,687	74	350	2,379
Newport	1,856	1,497	9	350	1,649
Wales average	2,024	1,631	46	348	1,830

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

Figure 2 shows the differences in average council tax per dwelling by billing authority compared with the Wales average in 2024-25. Caerphilly's average council tax per dwelling is £418 less than the Welsh average and Monmouthshire is £549 more.

Figure 2: Difference in average council tax per dwelling compared with the Welsh average, by billing authority, 2024-25

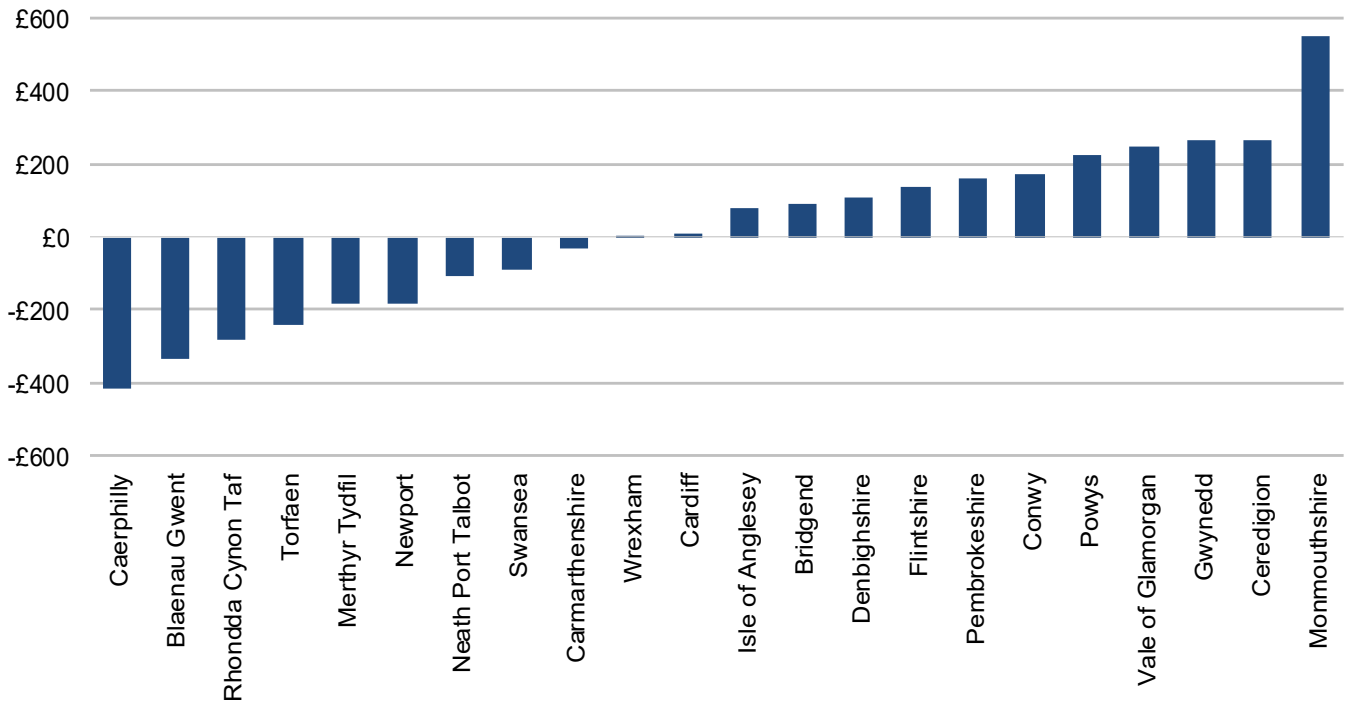


Figure 3 shows the average band D council tax by billing authority. Merthyr Tydfil has the largest average band D council tax whilst Caerphilly has the smallest average band D council tax.

Figure 3: Average band D council tax, 2024-25

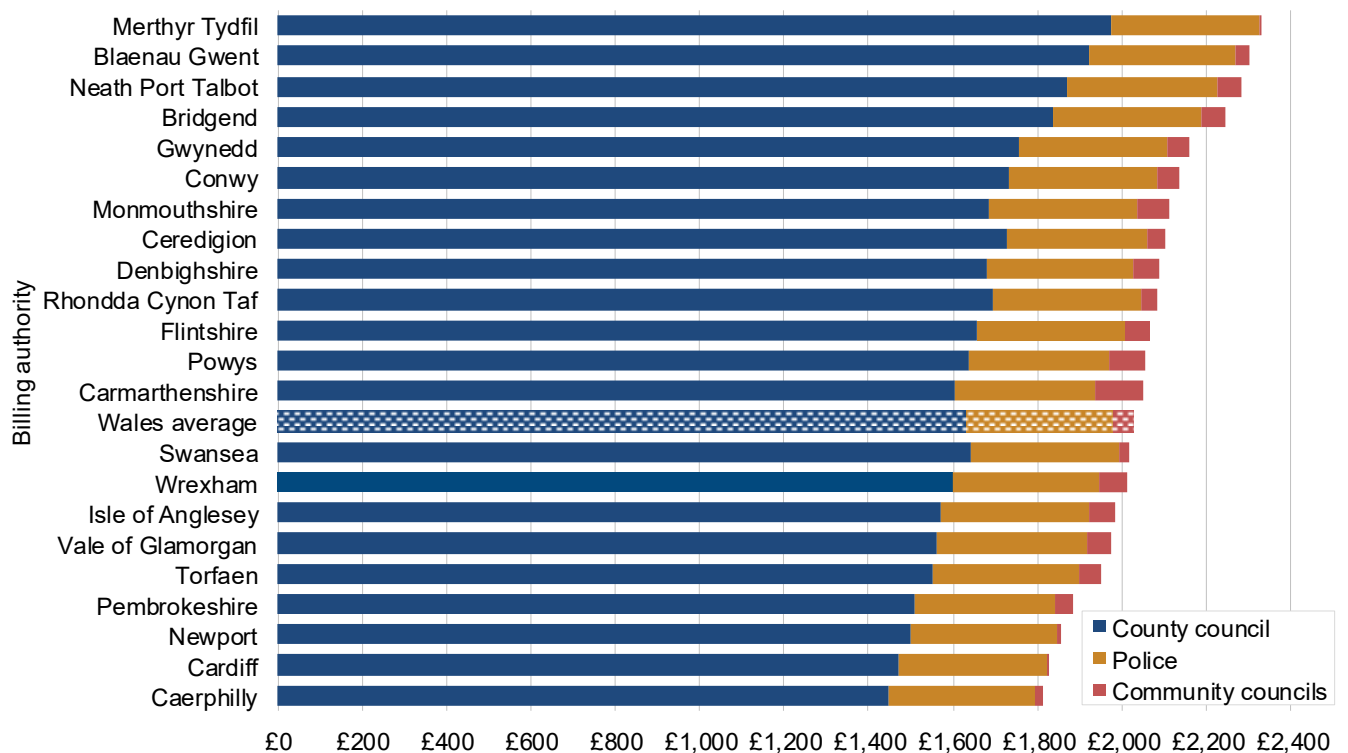


Table 2 compares the increases in average band D council tax in relation to the previous year for billing authorities, counties (including community councils) and police. Pembrokeshire has the largest overall percentage increase of 11.2%. All other authorities have increased by at least 5.4%. The Wales county average increase is 7.8%. South Wales Police have the largest band D increase of 8.7%. The overall Wales average Band D increase, including police elements, is 7.7%.

Table 2: Changes to average band D council tax

	2023-24	2024-25	Of which:			Due to:			Police authority area
			Overall increase	(a)		Overall increase	(a)		
				County	Police		County	Police	
	£	£	£	£	£	%	%	%	
Isle of Anglesey	1,825	1,982	157	140	17	8.6	9.4	5.0	
Gwynedd	1,987	2,161	173	157	17	8.7	9.5	5.0	
Conwy	1,964	2,136	172	155	17	8.8	9.5	5.0	North Wales
Denbighshire	1,928	2,090	162	146	17	8.4	9.1	5.0	
Flintshire	1,906	2,062	156	140	17	8.2	8.9	5.0	
Wrexham	1,843	2,014	171	154	17	9.3	10.2	5.0	
Powys	1,913	2,054	140	121	19	7.3	7.6	6.2	Dyfed Powys
Ceredigion	1,908	2,104	196	176	19	10.3	11.0	6.2	
Pembrokeshire	1,696	1,885	189	170	19	11.2	12.3	6.2	
Carmarthenshire	1,909	2,048	139	120	19	7.3	7.5	6.2	
Swansea	1,894	2,018	125	96	28	6.6	6.1	8.7	South Wales
Neath Port Talbot	2,112	2,281	169	141	28	8.0	7.9	8.7	
Bridgend	2,052	2,245	192	164	28	9.4	9.5	8.7	
Vale of Glamorgan	1,844	1,973	129	101	28	7.0	6.7	8.7	
Cardiff	1,716	1,827	112	83	28	6.5	6.0	8.7	
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,972	2,082	110	82	28	5.6	5.0	8.7	
Merthyr Tydfil	2,155	2,329	175	146	28	8.1	8.0	8.7	
Caerphilly	1,693	1,813	120	95	25	7.1	6.9	7.7	Gwent
Blaenau Gwent	2,182	2,303	121	96	25	5.6	5.2	7.7	
Torfaen	1,852	1,952	100	75	25	5.4	4.9	7.7	
Monmouthshire	1,960	2,111	151	126	25	7.7	7.7	7.7	
Newport	1,713	1,856	143	118	25	8.3	8.5	7.7	
Wales average	1,879	2,024	145	122	23	7.7	7.8	7.1	

(a) Including community council precepts.

Figure 4 shows the average band D change in council tax compared to the previous year. The average increase for Wales is £145, made up of £122 for county councils and £23 for police.

Figure 4: Change in average band D council tax, 2024-25

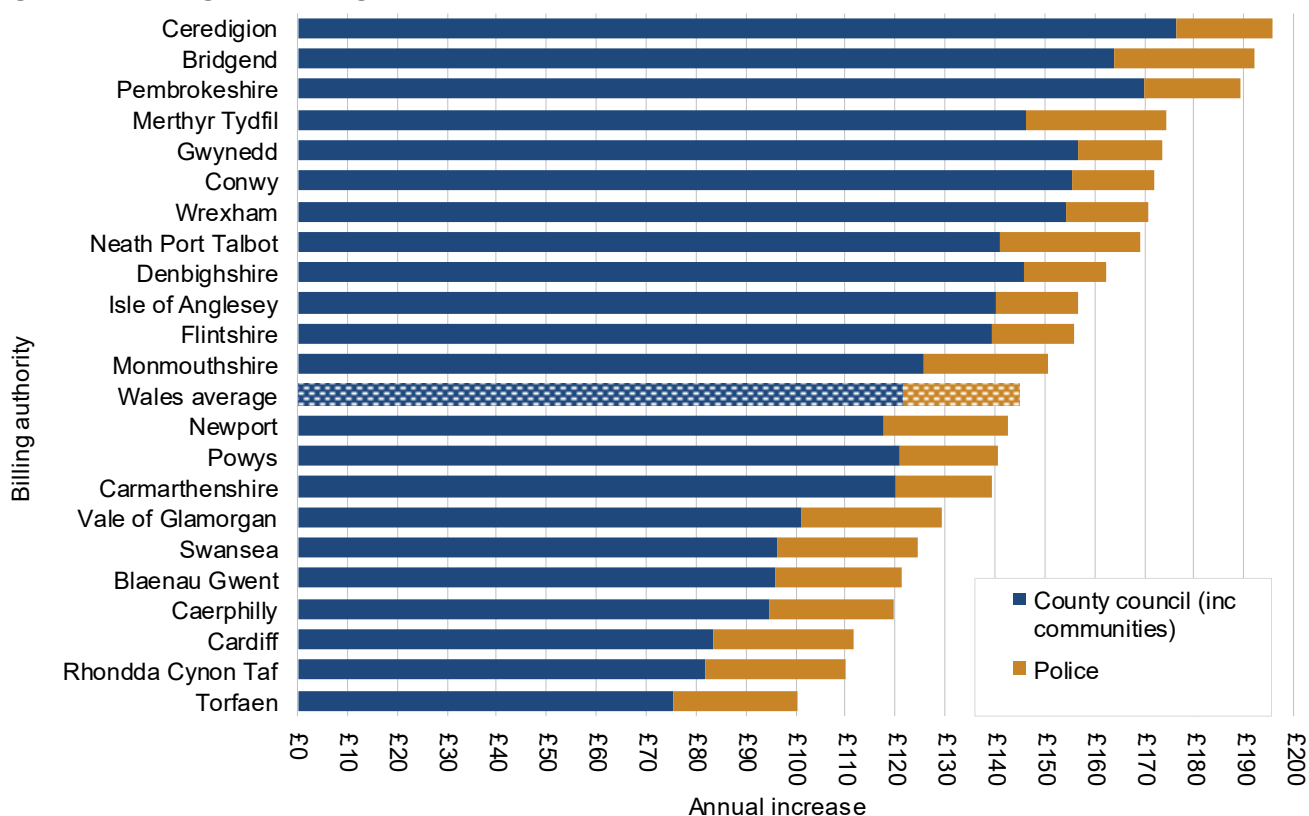


Figure 5 compares average band D council tax increases between Wales and England. From 2009-10 to 2016-17 figures show a higher increase in Wales. Between 2011-12 and 2015-16, central government funded a council tax freeze for many English authorities. For 2024-25, the increase in Wales is 2.6 percentage points higher than in England. The Wales average band D in 2024-25 is £147 less than in England.

Figure 5: Year- on-year change in average band D council tax, 1994-95 to 2024-25

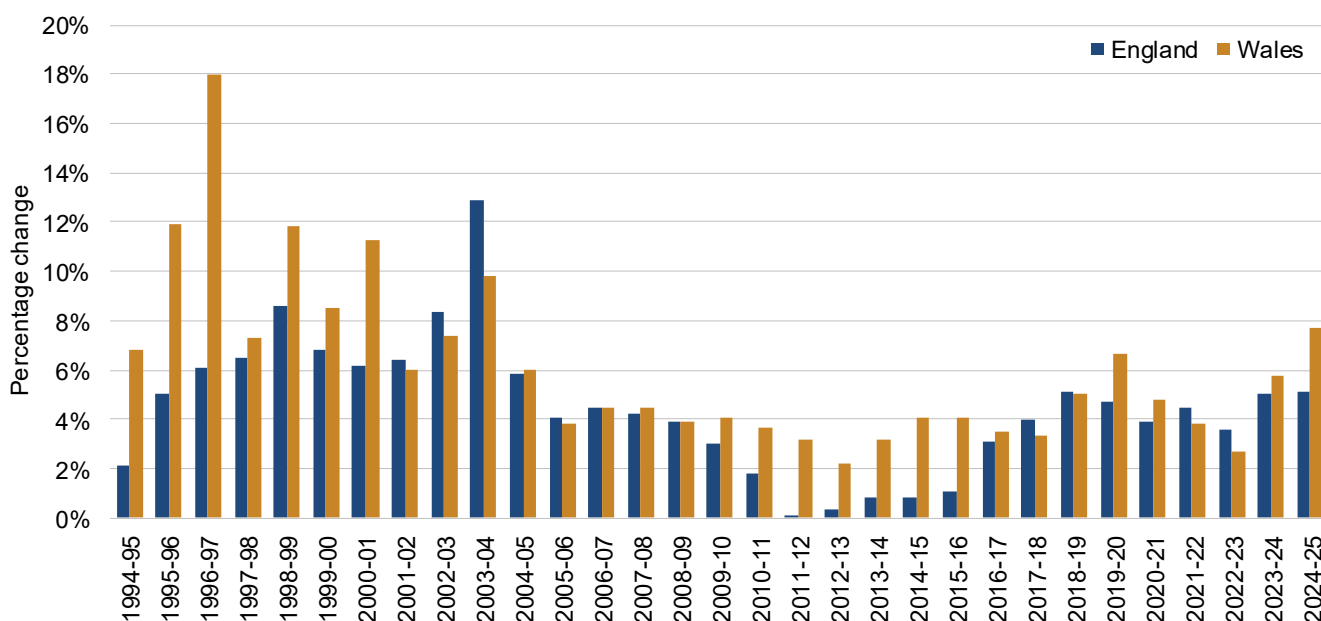


Table 3 shows that budget requirement (see notes) has increased on average by 5.1% for counties and increased by 7.3% for police. The proportion of budget met from council tax for police varies from 46% for Gwent Police to 55% for Dyfed Powys Police. This same proportion varies by county from 20% for Caerphilly to 40% for Monmouthshire.

Table 3: Budget requirement and council tax income

	Budget requirement				Council tax income (£m)	CT income as % of budget
	2023-24 (£m)	2024-25 (£m)	Change			
			(£m)	%		
Counties:						
Isle of Anglesey	172.6	181.7	9.1	5.3	54.1	30
Gwynedd	321.0	334.9	14.0	4.3	101.6	30
Conwy	282.4	297.2	14.8	5.2	93.7	32
Denbighshire	253.3	273.7	20.4	8.0	72.9	27
Flintshire	355.5	371.7	16.2	4.5	113.2	30
Wrexham	306.1	323.2	17.0	5.6	90.3	28
Powys	331.5	347.0	15.5	4.7	111.1	32
Ceredigion	181.5	195.1	13.6	7.5	59.8	31
Pembrokeshire	295.5	318.7	23.2	7.9	99.8	31
Carmarthenshire	458.2	481.9	23.6	5.2	131.2	27
Swansea	561.8	591.2	29.5	5.2	156.2	26
Neath Port Talbot	363.9	379.8	15.8	4.3	94.2	25
Bridgend	345.2	363.9	18.6	5.4	104.9	29
Vale of Glamorgan	297.5	312.5	15.0	5.0	102.7	33
Cardiff	802.9	846.4	43.4	5.4	223.2	26
Rhondda Cynon Taf	599.8	623.4	23.6	3.9	137.8	22
Merthyr Tydfil	152.7	160.9	8.2	5.4	37.4	23
Caerphilly	423.6	438.6	14.9	3.5	89.7	20
Blaenau Gwent	178.4	184.9	6.6	3.7	40.9	22
Torfaen	224.7	233.9	9.2	4.1	55.2	24
Monmouthshire	200.8	211.4	10.6	5.3	85.4	40
Newport	374.2	396.4	22.2	5.9	92.4	23
Total counties	7,483.2	7,868.4	385.1	5.1	2,147.8	27
Dyfed Powys Police	133.4	143.9	10.5	7.9	79.4	55
Gwent Police	161.6	173.0	11.4	7.1	79.2	46
North Wales Police	189.0	200.3	11.3	6.0	106.3	53
South Wales Police	358.7	387.0	28.3	7.9	180.4	47
Total police	842.7	904.2	61.5	7.3	445.2	49
Total Wales	8,325.9	8,772.5	446.6	5.4	2,593.0	30

Figures 6 and 7 show the funding of budget requirement separately for counties and police.

Figure 6: Funding of Counties Budget Requirement, 2024-25

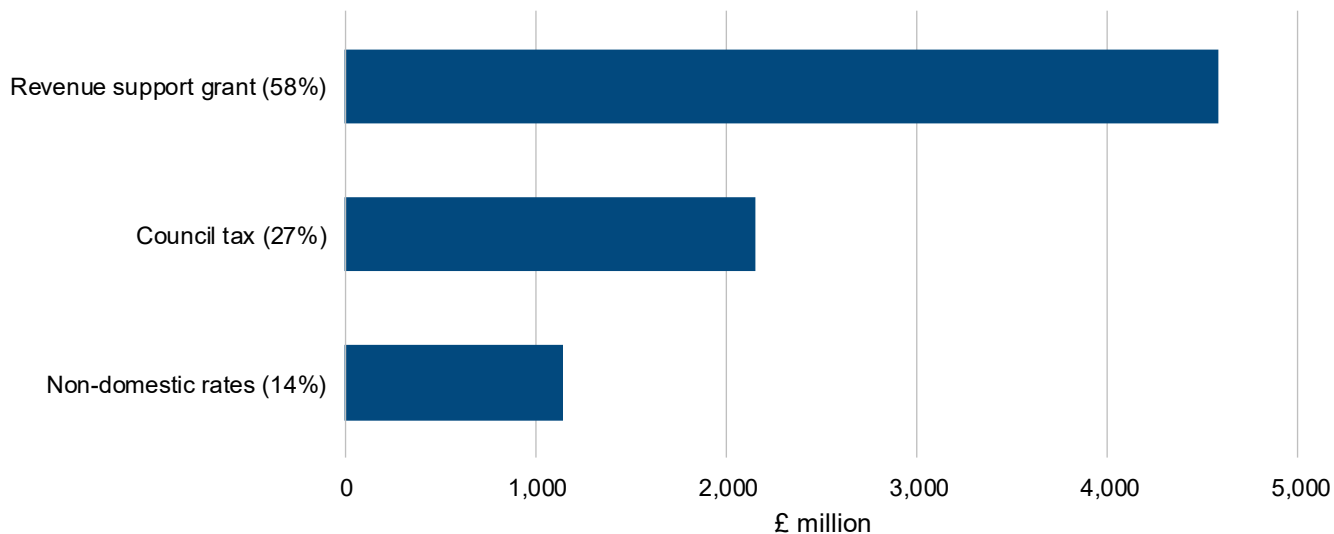
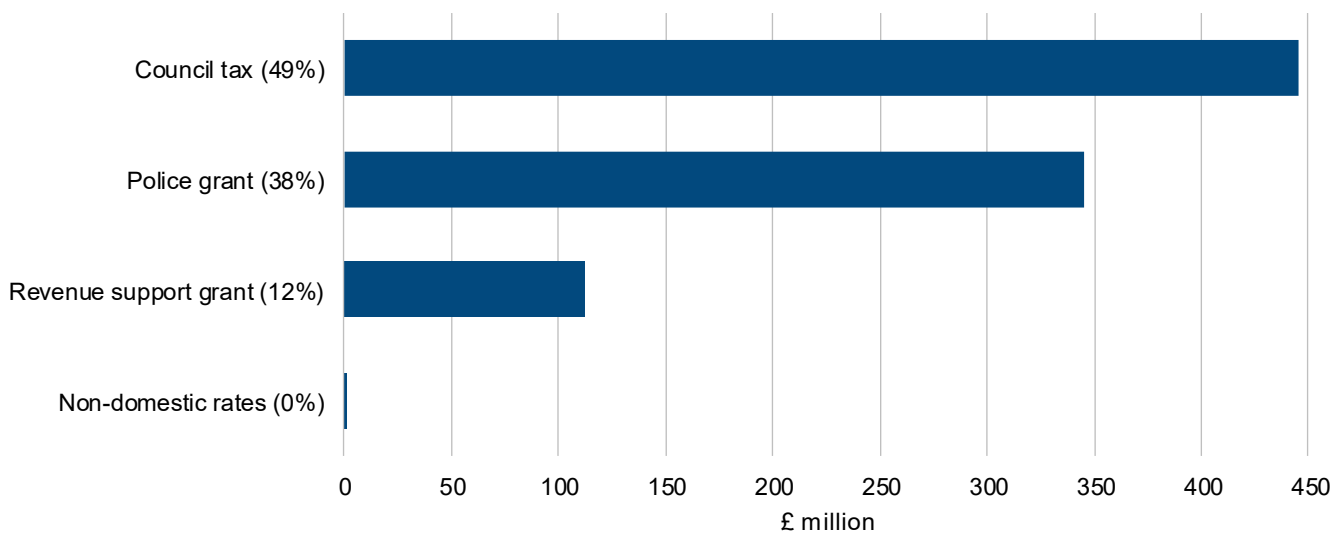


Figure 7: Funding of Police Budget Requirement, 2024-25



Glossary

Data sources

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 and include the precept to fund adult social care in England.

Background

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 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.

Key quality information

Official Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political reference.

This section provides a summary of information on this output against six dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity, Coherence, and Comparability.

Relevance

The statistics are important and have a number of uses, for example: advice to Ministers; local government finance revenue settlement calculations; unitary authority comparisons and benchmarking; expenditure in Wales compared to other countries; informing the debate in the Senedd Cymru and beyond; assisting in research in public expenditure issues; economic analysis.

Accuracy

The main source of information on local authority council tax levels is the Budget Requirement (BR) return.

We collect 100% of returns from all twenty-two county councils and four police and crime commissioners. The collection is a 100% survey and as such no estimation of the figures is calculated, and hence there is no sampling error.

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.

Once we receive the data, it goes through further validation and verification checks, for example:

- spend per head by local authority;
- arithmetic consistency checks;
- cross checks with other relevant data collections;
- thorough tolerance checks;
- outturn comparison with budgets;
- cross checks with data from other government departments;
- verification that data outside of tolerances are correct.

The data that is collected adhere to recognised professional standards. Specifically, the finance data is required under legislation and also must adhere to CIPFA accounting procedures. However, further guidelines are also available on the interpretation of these standards to ensure consistency.

Timeliness and punctuality

The data collection is carried out in February and March. The data is published in March, this allows time to collect, collate and validate the data.

All outputs adhere to the Code of Practice by pre-announcing the data of publication through the [upcoming calendar](#) web pages.

Accessibility and clarity

The Welsh local government finance statistics are published in an accessible, orderly, pre-announced manner on the Welsh Government website at 9:30am on the day of publication. All releases are available to download for free.

More detailed data are also available at the same time on the StatsWales website and this can be manipulated online or downloaded into spreadsheets for use offline.

We aim to use Plain English in our outputs and all outputs adhere to the Welsh Government accessibility policy. Furthermore, all our headlines are published in Welsh and English.

We regularly peer review our outputs.

Comparability and coherence

Adhering to the professional code (CIPFA's SeRCOP) has meant that changes over time have been minimal. Where there have been time series which are not comparable from the start of the time series to the end this will be shown clearly in the outputs. Where advance warning is known of future changes these will be pre-announced in accordance with Welsh Government arrangements.

The existence of a professional code and our adherence to it provides assurance that the data are consistent across domains, such as local authorities.

Statistics on council tax levels are also published in both [England](#) and [Scotland](#). The council tax system does not apply to Northern Ireland.

National Statistics status

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

These statistics last underwent a full assessment against the Code of Practice in 2011.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. The Act puts in place seven wellbeing goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the wellbeing goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before Senedd Cymru. Under section 10(8) of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, where the Welsh Ministers revise the national indicators, they must as soon as reasonably practicable (a) publish the indicators as revised and (b) lay a copy of them before the Senedd. These national indicators were laid before the Senedd in 2021. The indicators laid on 14 December 2021 replace the set laid on 16 March 2016.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the wellbeing goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local wellbeing assessments and local wellbeing plans.

Further details

The document is available at: <https://gov.wales/council-tax-levels>.

Further data is available on our [StatsWales website](#):

Next update

March 2025 - Statistical first release and StatsWales update for 2025-26.

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to stats.finance@gov.wales.

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