I am writing on behalf of Ben Savage to respond to your information request:

1. Following social care financial assessments, how many people in each of the past 5 financial years (each year from to 2009/2010 to 2013-2014) have been deemed to have sheltered assets/deliberately deprived themselves of assets to increase eligibility for local authority funding?

We do not keep records in this way. It is estimated that 2 people per year request council support and are considered to be ineligible for council funding on the basis they have deprived themselves of assets. In addition for approximately 10 people per year we add back small amounts of gifted capital into the financial assessment.

2. How many times in each of the past 5 financial years (each year from to 2009/2010 to 2013-2014) has the authority taken action to recover contributions towards care charges. For example, through imposing a charge on assets or recovered assets? None, but see above.

3. How much money has been recovered towards care costs from people deemed to have sheltered assets/deliberately deprived themselves of assets? Records are not kept in this way.

4. Does the council employ officers to actively investigate whether a person subject to financial assessment has sheltered assets/deliberately deprived themselves of assets? If so, how do these officers gather evidence? Please provide some indicative examples of evidence used as proof in past cases. No officers are employed full time for dealing with deprivation of assets in relation to social care assessments alone. The council has a fraud team that deals with fraud on a wider scale, i.e. including housing benefit. The Council’s social care financial assessment team, as part of the financial assessment process routinely ask for a statement of finances from applicants for social care funding. This should be supported by at least 6 months of statements from all accounts. These statements are scrutinised for transfers to other accounts and for undeclared income or capital. This has provided proof in past cases. Land Registry documents are checked if there is a concern regarding property.

If you are unhappy with the information we have provided in response to your request please write to:

Information Management Team Manager
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Town Hall, St Ives Road
Maidenhead
SL6 1RF

or send an e-mail to martin.tubbs@rbwm.gov.uk

We are proud to be one of the leading authorities in England for consistently responding to information requests within the 20 working days set down by statute.
Information about our performance and summaries of requests received can be found on our website:

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/foi_information_requests.htm

We are keen to hear about your experience with the Information Management Team here at the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and look forward to receiving any comments you have about the way your information request was processed.

Please send any feedback to the Information Management Team Manager either by e-mail martin.tubbs@rbwm.gov.uk or in writing to the address above.

Yours sincerely

Ben Savage
Information Management Officer
Legal Services
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Town Hall, St.Ives Road
Maidenhead SL6 1RF

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Information Management Feedback Form

FOI67137

1) How would you rate our performance in relation to processing your request:
Excellent   Good   Fair   Poor

If you have answered Fair or Poor please suggest how we can improve:

2) Did you receive the response to your request within the advised timescale? Yes/No

3) Did the response meet your needs? Yes/No
   If No, why was that

4) Prior to submitting your request did you search RBWM’s website? Yes/No
   If Yes, why did you then need to submit a request (Highlight all that apply)?

? Information required not found
? Information found out of date
? Information not in required format
? Information insufficient to meet need
? Other please specify:

If No, why was that?

5) Please add any further comments that would help us improve our service:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form - your feedback is appreciated.