



**WOKINGHAM  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Privacy Notice Council Tax and Business Rates**

This notice, in conjunction with Wokingham Borough Councils overarching privacy statement, explains when as a service we collect personal information, what we use your data for, who has access, who we share it with, and what your rights are.

### **Who are we?**

Council Tax and Business Rates (NNDR)  
Wokingham Borough Council,  
Shute End,  
Wokingham,  
Berkshire,  
RG40 1BN

### **What is the lawful basis for processing the information?**

The lawful basis for processing your information is the performance of a public task and is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation, as specified by the following legislation:

- Local Government Finance Act 1992
- Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 as amended
- Non-Domestic Rating (Collection and Enforcement)(Local Lists) Regulations 1989 as amended

### **How do we collect information from you?**

Information is collected from you as the service user via online web forms, hard copy documents, e-mail, by telephone or through face-to-face discussion. This information will be collected from either you directly as the data subject, or from a representative acting on your behalf, e.g. an agent. We may also receive information from the Valuation Office (VOA), Enforcement agents and other local authorities.

Some examples of the forms that may be submitted are Council Tax online change of circumstances form, Council Tax enquiry form, Council Tax discounts and exemptions form, Council Tax Reduction (CTR) application form, Council Tax Refund form, Council Tax Direct Debit form, Business Rates (NNDR) Direct Debit form, and Business Rates Occupation/Vacation form.

### **What type of information is collected from you?**

The service collects and processes a range of information about you. The information is provided to enable Council Tax to carry out its duty and functions, provide you with a service, and continue to make service improvements.

We will collect the following information: Surname, Forename, Title, Date of Birth, Address, Postcode, Previous address, Previous postcode, Forwarding address, Forwarding postcode, E-mail, Phone number, Marital status, Bank details, National Insurance number, Multiple occupier details, Employer details, Benefit income details, Land lord or letting agents details, and Nominated third party name and contact details.

You will be informed of any other data we collect, that is not listed above, orally or through email at the time of collection of the data.

### **How do we use the information you have provided?**

All information provided is used by Wokingham Borough Council for the purposes of administering and enforcing Council Tax and Business Rates. This includes:

- Issuing you bills and statements
- Setting up Direct Debits
- Collection of monies owed to us
- Ensuring you receive the correct discounts, reliefs and reductions
- Monitoring of empty properties
- Responding to enquiries and other matters
- Analysing statistical data for service development purposes (usually anonymised)

### **Who has access to the information about you?**

Your information is managed by staff employed in the Council Tax and Business Rates service. Your information may also be shared with officers from other service areas for assistance with these matters. All personal data is stored securely; we have in place security which are intended to ensure, as far as possible, the security and integrity of all personally identifiable information.

Your data is stored securely on our systems and accessed only by authorised officers of Wokingham Borough Council by using their own Username and Password all created in-line with pre-defined user credentials. Personal data is also held in electronic files on the Councils network drives. These are only accessible through personal logon credentials and access privileges to specific drives.

Unfortunately, the transmission of information via the internet is not completely secure. Although we will do our best to protect your personal data, we cannot guarantee the security of your data transmitted to our sites, any transmission is at your own risk. Once we have received your information, we will use strict procedures and security features to try to prevent unauthorised access, and any exchanges of information carried out once we are in receipt of your data will be done securely.

Any personal data held in paper format is held in lockable filing storage, and accessed only by authorised officers, as is data held on audio or CD/DVD media. Data may be stored in paper form and is always secured in lockable cabinets when not in use. Access to Council sites is also secure requiring a person electronic pass (lanyard) to access staff only areas.

### **Who we may share your information with?**

When contacting the Council Tax and Business Rates, your information will be shared with other Council staff to the extent required to provide you with the service you have requested. Wokingham Borough Council will not share personal information with any other external parties, except where required and with parties required to carry out its statutory duties and functions or where required by law. Wokingham Borough Council participates in data sharing arrangements with other Local authorities in England.

Under certain circumstances we may also provide your personal information to:

- Government departments - if we have to do so legally
- Other local authorities - when you have moved from one area to another and the new authority needs confirmation of the services you are receiving.

- Experian – under contract for the purpose of finding customers who have absconded owing Council Tax.
- Enforcement Agents – under contract for the purpose of enforcing a court Liability Order and collecting outstanding Council Tax and NNDR
- Valuation Office Agency (VOA) – as part of our service level agreement
- Tenant Support Officer (TSO) – with the authority of the customer
- Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) – with the authority of the customer

Where the Council engages third parties to process personal data on its behalf, they do so on the basis of written instructions, are under a duty of confidentiality, and are obliged to implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure the security of data.

To ensure that information is held continued to be held securely and that accuracy is maintained, there will also be instances where our system suppliers will need to access individuals personal information. This will be on a strict need to know basis and all contracts have confidentiality clauses built in.

The Council will not transfer your information to countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA) unless this is necessary, and only to countries which have sufficient safeguards in place to protect information.

Information will be shared internally if required for better performance and efficiency of Council services and the welfare of individuals.

Wokingham Borough Council may also share personal information with the police and other local authorities under Article 23 of the General Data Protection Regulations in order to prevent or detect crime.

### **How long do we store your information?**

The duration that the Council will hold information, and what happens at the end of that period, are as described within the Councils corporate retention schedule available on our website: [www.wokingham.gov.uk/council-and-meetings/information-and-data-protection/privacy-statement](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/council-and-meetings/information-and-data-protection/privacy-statement)

### **Does the service utilise automated decision-making?**

The Council Tax and Business Rates service does utilise automated decision-making in the services that it provides.