

Summary of Utility Debt as at 31 March 2012

UTILITY	TOTAL UNDER 30 DAYS	TOTAL OVER 30 DAYS	TOTAL OUTSTANDING	TOTAL IN DISPUTE	TOTAL MARKED FOR WRITE-OFF
Thames Water	£160k	£325k	£485k	£55k	<£0.5k
Virgin Media	£24k	£66k	£90k	£9k	0
British Telecom	£17k	£152k	£169k	0	0
EDF	£0.5k	£2k	£2.5k	0	0
UK Power Networks	£9k	£41k	£50k	£30k	0
Southern Gas	£17k	£13k	£30k	<£0.5k	<£0.5k
TOTAL	£227.5k	£599k	£826.5k	£94.5k	<£0.5k

The total outstanding for Utilities has decreased by £280k. The age profile has improved and the debts over 30 days old total £599k which is a £336k reduction on the figures as at 30 November 2011.

All available options are employed including legal action where appropriate. L B Bromley's legal team advises that county court claims should only be submitted if all disputes have been resolved. When claims are defended the judge can refer the local authority to arbitration and the HAUC code of practice.

LB Bromley's New Roads and Street Works team confirm that the HAUC Code of practice does not put any time restraints on the submission or acceptance of disputes. Therefore, late disputes are accepted by L B Bromley which can impact on the success of county court claims.

Changes have been made to how defects are prepared and presented by LB Bromley in order to reduce the number of potential disputes which will improve the age profile.

With the exception of BT all utilities have accepted the annual inspection charges for 2012/13 which will reduce the number of disputes and improve collection.

Thames Water

A further £162k of defects have been cancelled which further reduces the over 30 days debt.

Virgin Media

Payments received since 31 March 2012 reduces the over 30 days figure to £9k.

British Telecom

LB Bromley's NRSW team are reviewing the outstanding invoices to ensure that no disputes are outstanding to enable Liberata to take court action.

Liberata escalated the level of this debt to the NRSW team manager and contact has been made with BT. If this does not result in payment Liberata will proceed with county court claims although there is a risk that the invoices will be disputed through the court.

EDF

All debts on the table above have since been cleared.

UK Power Networks

Further payments have been received since March and some invoices are being disputed by the company with LB Bromley.

Southern Gas

All debts on the table above have since been cleared.