

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

Please can you provide me addresses of empty properties of commercial and residential for the year 2013 owned by Leicester City Council.

Our response:

Please see attached spreadsheet with details of empty commercial properties owned by the Council.

Due to the recent First Tier Tribunal decision (**Voyias v IC & Camden LBC**) the addresses of empty residential properties are now considered to be exempt under section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act and is therefore being withheld. Disclosure of the requested list of properties would be likely to have significant negative impact on the prevention of crime. Disclosure of this information could be of use to squatters and would, on a balance of probability, lead to significant harm in the form of criminal activity.

The Council considers there is a strong public interest in avoiding likely prejudice to the prevention of crime, including avoiding damage to property and personal distress to the victims of crime and to those in the wider neighbourhood. On balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption does outweigh the public interest in disclosure (which include properties coming back into use and the ability to review the Council's activities).

Having considered the public interest, the Council's decision is therefore to withhold details of vacant residential properties. Please treat this document as the statutory refusal notice for the exempt information as required by section 17.1 of the Freedom, of Information Act 2000 for the reasons stated directly above.

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use. Please be aware that any commercial or other use, for example publication, sale, or redistribution may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as amended unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission.

Not all the information that is supplied which is covered by copyright will be the Council's copyright, for example it may be the copyright of a government department or another Council. You should seek either the Council's consent or their consent as appropriate. The Council is willing to advise you of any such potential issues on request. In order to make a request to re-use the information please contact the Information Governance Manager using the details below.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Information Governance Manager
Information and Support
Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)
New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG
e-mail: info.requests@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.