

## Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Empty Homes

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

### You asked:

**(a) addresses of "empty and derelict" properties that are within Leicester City Council area; by empty and derelict I mean homes that have the potential to be brought back into use. Also possibly homes that are on the short list for compulsory purchase orders**

**(b) the names of the owners of those properties referred to in (a)**

For your information this letter constitutes a refusal notice under Section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because an exemption under Section 31 of the Act is being applied – law enforcement

Disclosure of the requested information would be likely to have significant negative impact on the prevention of crime. The Council considers there is a strong public interest in avoiding likely prejudice to the prevention of crime.

If you are interested in purchasing an empty home, here are some options you may wish to consider:

1. The Empty Homes Team has a list of people such as yourself who are interested in purchasing empty homes and if you would like to be added to this list, all you have to do is provide your contact details i.e. name and address, mobile, home and work telephone numbers and email address.

The list gets circulated to empty property owners who are selling their properties or those who want to sell but cannot find a buyer. The owners decide whether or not to contact anyone on the list. If they do make contact then the Council does not get involved in the negotiations, neither can it be held responsible for any dispute which may arise as a result, so all parties involved must satisfy themselves of the suitability of the other person before proceeding.

If you wish to be added to the list then please feel free to forward your contact details.

2. Additionally, if you see a particular empty property you are interested in purchasing then you can write or email the Empty Homes Team, stating your interest, providing the empty property address along with your contact details (as above) and the Empty Homes Team can forward your letter on to the owner with a covering letter asking the owner to contact you direct if they want to sell. At the same time we would also write out to you confirming that your letter has been forwarded to the owner. Again, the Council does not get involved in any such negotiations that may result. Neither can it be held responsible for any dispute (as mentioned above).

If you have any specific addresses of empty properties you are interested in please send your email to: [emptyhomes@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:emptyhomes@leicester.gov.uk).

3. Alternatively, if you see a property you are interested in, you could also write a letter addressed to the owner providing your contact details and post the letter through the door asking the owner to contact you directly to negotiate a sale.

Attached is a list of empty properties that have Executive approval for the Council to proceed with Compulsory Purchase. Again, if you are interested in purchasing any of these please contact the Empty Homes Team – see options above and we can forward your contact details on to the owner.

We are withholding the names of the owners of the properties as we consider that to be an absolute exemption under section 40(2) (personal data), and this therefore constitutes a refusal under section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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](mailto: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](http://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.

Enc. 2013 10 08 WDTK 4028 List of CPO Approvals