

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:

Q1/ How many properties within your local authority's area were registered as empty in 2012-13? If you don't have this data available please provide the most recent data you have and state which year it is for.

During 2012/13 there were 2,857 empty properties eligible for exemptions A to W. There were also 2,030 properties empty for greater than 6 months, making a total of 4,887.

Q2/ From the empty property data provided of those properties how many have been empty for greater than six months?

2,030

Q3/ Do you consider your authority has the necessary resources to tackle empty homes i.e. do you have a designated empty homes officer

Leicester currently has 2 designated Empty Homes Officers and we are due to recruit another 2 shortly.

Q4/ Are you allocated specific funding to deal with empty homes? If so how much?

No specific funding is allocated by government for this purpose, however the Housing General Fund Capital Programme includes a provision of £50,000 which can be used for balancing the difference between compensation and sale price.

Q5/ Which council tax exemption category do the majority of empty properties fall within in your Councils area?

The following information is for 2012/13.

Unoccupied/unfurnished – 2,030 unoccupied / unfurnished properties are not exempt

Exempt unoccupied/unfurnished - 2,096 properties were eligible for the Class C exemption

Q6/ What is the main priority when addressing empty homes within your Councils area?

To provide additional housing

Q7/ What measures does your authority currently use to bring empty properties back into use?

Voluntary measures e.g. contact and persuasion

Private sector leasing schemes

Increased Council tax for long term empty properties

Compulsory Purchase Orders

Q8/ In terms of success in bringing empty properties back into use what has been the most successful measure utilized?

Voluntary measures e.g. contact and persuasion

Private sector leasing schemes

Increased Council tax for long term empty properties

Compulsory Purchase Orders

Q9/ Do you think the legislative powers available to local authorities are effective to tackle empty homes?

This is not information we hold. Therefore this part of the letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held by Leicester City Council.

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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.