

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 for:

Details of the address (including street number and postcode) of homes that:

- a) have been empty for over 6 months**
- b) have been empty for under 6 months**

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.

c) your empty homes strategy including what empty homes (if any) you prioritise.

Our empty home strategy goes back to 1995 and from having one dedicated Empty Homes Officer we set up our Empty Homes Team in April 2004.

We generally only focus work on properties that have been empty over 18 months, as by then there is clearly a problem in them being brought back into use by the owners.

We tackle private sector residential family accommodation rather than one bedroom flats or flats over shops.

We prioritise properties that are a particular eye-sore or are attracting anti-social behaviour, or causing environmental issues i.e. vermin, fly tipping etc. and those that have been vacant for more than 5 years.

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.