

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 provide me with the following information about the number of empty commercial buildings (offices, factories, shops etc.) recorded by the council in the city of Leicester.

How many empty ‘commercial buildings’ were recorded by the council in each of the following years:

1. **June 31st 2013-July 1st 2014**
2. **June 31st 2012-July 1st 2013**
3. **June 31st 2011-July 1st 2012**
4. **June 31st 2010-July 1st 2011**
5. **June 31st 2009-July 1st 2010”**

Answer:

At the end of each financial year, a government return is completed for the accounting of non-domestic rate income. This includes the number of empty rating assessments as at 31st March, therefore we only have the data recorded for 1st April - 31st March for each year. And as this data has become historic we are unable to extract the figures for your date range. Please see the data we hold below:-

- | | |
|---------------|-------|
| 1. 31/03/2014 | 2,023 |
| 2. 31/03/2013 | 2,150 |
| 3. 31/03/2012 | 2,111 |
| 4. 31/03/2011 | 2,467 |
| 5. 31/03/2010 | 2,663 |

The Council does not hold this information. Therefore this 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.

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use, or for journalistic purposes. If the information is a dataset (which does not relate to the environment), you may also use the information for commercial re-use under an [Open Government Licence](#).

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

**Information Governance Manager
Information Governance Team
Leicester City Council
Bosworth House
Ground Floor**

9-15 Princess Road West
Leicester
LE1 6TH
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 may also seek independent advice from 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 requests until the internal appeals process of the Council has been exhausted. You are therefore advised to appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.