

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:

1. How many empty properties are currently under the control of the local authority in its area?

Leicester City Council's council owned void properties as at the end of April 2012 were 268 in total - see attached figures.

2. Please confirm if there is a list of these properties which is available publicly.

All available properties are advertised at termination stage through 'Leicester HomeChoice' our choice based lettings scheme. Those void properties that would not be available are those that may require decisions for disposal, redevelopment, complete refurbishment etc.

3. If there is such a register please confirm how such a register can be inspected.

These can be viewed via the web site at www.leicesterhomechoice.co.uk and can also be viewed via digital television services, display materials in our property shop and a vacancy sheet on request.

4. Please confirm what process is used to regain possession of that property from squatters.

We do not have any problems with squatters or trespassers and so have no costs relating to question 7.

5. Please confirm whether the local authority purchase such services via a tender or approved supplier's list.

The Council uses both processes.

6. Please confirm the date for any renewal of tender or contract opportunity for such a service.

For your information this part of the letter constitutes a refusal notice under Section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because an exemption under Section 21 of the Act is being applied, namely the information is accessible by other means.

Details of current and future tenders are advertised on the Council's website and can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/business/tenders--contracts/>

7. Please confirm the cost to the local authority in the last two years of regaining possession or controlling property which has been trespassed or squatted property in the local authority's area.

There has been no cost relating to this.

8. What is the name of the person responsible for this area of business? Please provide their direct email address and direct phone number.

We do not release the names and details of Officers below the director level as we consider this to be personal information. We are withholding this information since 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 contact details of the Director of Housing are:

Ann Branson
Leicester City Council
Ian Marlow Centre
Blackbird Road
Leicester LE4 0AR

Telephone No: 0116 252 6802
E-mail: Ann.Branson@leicester.gov.uk

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: FOIA@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.