

Archived: 28 August 2024 10:07:15

From: [FOI Responses](#)

Sent: 25 June 2024 15:38:35

Importance: Normal

Sensitivity: None

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 10th June 2024 for information about business rates accounts. Please find below City of Doncaster Council's responses to the questions you have raised.

Request:

I request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 about Business Rates Accounts held by your Council:

- Account Name
- Account Start Date
- Billing Authority Reference
- Current 2023 List Rateable Value
- Details of any reliefs where applied, including a further breakdown if possible of:
 - o Type of relief applied
 - o Date the relief was applied
 - o Value of the relief
- Full Address of the rated assessment
- Billing Address
- Occupied/Empty Status
- Description

Response:

This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1) of the Freedom of information Act. Section 31 exempts information from the right of access under the Freedom of Information Act if disclosure would prejudice (take wording from section of legislation e.g. the prevention or detection of crime).

We consider that the disclosure of the information would be likely to prejudice the prevention of crime as it is believed that if a list of the addresses were to be disclosed then these properties would become more vulnerable to squatting, associated crime and other forms of criminal activity including but not limited to criminal damage, such as the extraction of electricity and the stripping of empty properties and would increase the social and economic costs in these areas as a result.

As Section 31 is a qualified exemption, the Council is obliged to consider whether disclosure of the information would be in the public interest before refusing to supply the information. Therefore the Council has taken the following

factors into account:

Factors for disclosing information:

- To release the information would be in the spirit of openness and transparency in which the Council operates.
- The information is of interest to some members of the public.

Factors for withholding information:

- There is a strong public interest in avoiding the likely prejudice to the prevention of crime. Tackling crime involves a significant strain on public expense and it is in the public interest to ensure that public resources are used cost-effectively.
- The information may contribute to criminal knowledge
- The public interest in avoiding damage to property
- The efficient use of public and police resources
- The potential for indirect consequences of crime, for example the impact on neighbouring properties of crimes perpetrated on the empty properties

Taking these factors into consideration, the Council has decided that the reasons for withholding the information outweigh those for disclosing it and we will not be providing the information at this time.

I hope that this information is useful to you.

City of Doncaster Council estimates that it has cost £46.00 to respond to this request for information.

Reviewing any decisions made:

If you are not happy with this reply you can ask us to review our response. To do this write to us within 40 working days of receiving your response at the address below or email FOIAppeals@doncaster.gov.uk

If you do not agree with the review decision you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision about our compliance or otherwise with the Freedom of Information legislation. Contact details for the ICO are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. www.ico.org.uk
Telephone 0303 123 1113.

Yours sincerely
Sophie

Sophie Ormshaw

Information Governance Officer
Information Governance Team
Corporate Resources
City of Doncaster Council
Civic Office (Floor 2)
Waterdale
Doncaster
DN1 3BU

Phone: 01302 735326

E-mail: sophie.ormshaw@doncaster.gov.uk

Web: <http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/>

Please treat the content of this e-mail as confidential. If you have received this e-mail and it is not addressed to you please accept my apologies and inform me as soon as possible.

[REDACTED]

Sent: 10 June 2024 11:20

To: Freedom of Information Requests <FOI.Requests@doncaster.gov.uk>

Subject: FOI

Dear Sir or Madam

I request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 about Business Rates Accounts held by your Council:

- Account Name
- Account Start Date
- Billing Authority Reference
- Current 2023 List Rateable Value
- Details of any reliefs where applied, including a further breakdown if possible of:
 - o Type of relief applied
 - o Date the relief was applied
 - o Value of the relief
- Full Address of the rated assessment
- Billing Address
- Occupied/Empty Status
- Description

I am aware that the Account Name may be considered personal in some instances so I ask that in these cases you supply the rest of the information provided with the Account name redacted. Also, if there are any aspects of our request you cannot disclose information for, could you please identify them with a reason.

I thank you very much for your help,

Best regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]