

Archived: 21 May 2024 10:02:35

From: [FOI Responses](#)

Sent: 20 May 2024 10:00:40

Subject: Freedom of Information [REDACTED] Response

Importance: Normal

Sensitivity: None

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 for information about commercial occupiers/ratepayers of residential properties with a council tax band. Please find below City of Doncaster Council's responses to the questions you have raised.

**Request:**

I should be grateful if you would provide me with the following information in relation to your most recently updated list of all commercial occupiers/ratepayers of residential properties with a council tax band, that are classified as vacant, namely:-

1. The Trading name of the commercial ratepayer (ie, if the ratepayer is not classified as an individual)
2. Full Property Address (Number, Street, Postal Code, Town)
3. Council tax band
4. Date vacated
5. Current Annual Charge
6. Details of any discount, premium or exemption applied

**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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.org.uk)  
Telephone 0303 123 1113.

Yours sincerely  
Sophie

### **Sophie Ormshaw**

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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.

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**Sent:** 14 May 2024 15:04

**To:** Freedom of Information Requests <[FOI.Requests@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:FOI.Requests@doncaster.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Freedom of Information request

Dear Sir/Madam,

I make this request under s1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I refer to s3 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and would confirm that I do not request any information which would constitute personal data of an "identifiable living individual", nor any personal data relating to an "identifiable natural person" as defined in Article 4 of the GDPR.

I should be grateful if you would provide me with the following information in relation to your most recently updated list of all commercial occupiers/ratepayers of residential properties with a council tax band, that are classified as vacant, namely:-

1. The Trading name of the commercial ratepayer (ie, if the ratepayer is not classified as an individual)
2. Full Property Address (Number, Street, Postal Code, Town)
3. Council tax band
4. Date vacated
5. Current Annual Charge
6. Details of any discount, premium or exemption applied

It would be most helpful if you could provide the requested information in Excel format.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]