

Archived: 28 August 2024 10:24:23

From: [FOI Responses](#)

Sent: 24 July 2024 09:59:52

Subject: FOI Response [REDACTED]

Importance: Normal

Sensitivity: None

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information dated 22 July 2024, regarding empty properties.

Please find below City of Doncaster Council's response to the questions you have raised.

Request:

"I am writing to ask you to supply details of The address (including street number and postcode) of homes that

- a) have been empty for over 12 months
- b) have been empty for under 12 months

I would like to invest into the restoration of these empty and/or derelict properties."

Response:

This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1)(a) 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 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 empty properties and 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, extraction of electricity and the stripping of empty properties. This would increase the social and economic costs in these areas as a result.

As Section 31 is a qualified exemption, City of Doncaster Council is obliged to consider whether disclosure of the information would be in the public interest before refusing to supply the information. Therefore the City of Doncaster 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. 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 would 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 'a0the impact on neighbouring properties of crimes perpetrated on the empty 'a0properties.
- There has been a recent increase in empty properties in the area 'a0being targeted by criminal activity and releasing details of empty 'a0properties could have a detrimental effect on steps being taken to prevent this.

Taking these factors into consideration, the City of Doncaster Council has decided that the 'a0reasons for withholding the information outweigh those for disclosing it 'a0and we will not be providing the information at this time.

City of Doncaster Council estimates that it has cost £49.00 to respond to this request for information.

If you are not happy with this reply you can ask us to review our response. To do this write to us 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

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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.

Sent: 23 July 2024 20:00

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

Subject: Empty Houses

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Allow sender](#)

I am writing to ask you to supply details of The address (including street number and postcode) of homes that

a) have been empty for over 12 months

b) have been empty for under 12 months

I would like to invest into the restoration of these empty and/or derelict properties.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]