



Data Protection Officer  
Freedom of Information  
NW Leicestershire District Council  
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Telephone: 01530 454763

Date: 14 January 2021

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 1448**

I write further to your email dated 13 January 2021.

Your request has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), explained on our [freedom of information](#) page.

Your request:

In terms of the Freedom of Information Act of 2000, and subject to section 40(2) on personal data, could you please provide me with your local authority's complete and most-recently updated list of all business (non-residential) property rates data, including the following fields:

- Billing Authority Property Reference Code (linking the property to the public VOA database reference)
- Firm's Trading Name (i.e. property occupant or ratepayer)
- Full Property Address (Number, Street, Postal Code, Town)
- Occupation / Vacancy status
- Date of Occupation / Vacancy
- Actual annual rates charged (in Pounds) and/or categories of reliefs/exemptions granted

If you are unable to provide an absolute "Occupation / Vacancy" status, please provide the Exemptions and / or Reliefs that a particular property may be receiving.

Our response:

I can confirm that North West Leicestershire District Council holds the information you have requested. However, the information you have requested is intended for future publication (not including vacant property data, see below) and is, therefore, exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the FOIA.

When applying an exemption under section 22 of the FOIA, the Council must consider whether to do so is in the public interest. In this case, we consider that the public interest favours withholding the information at this time because it will be available at a future date.

The Business Rate data is usually uploaded to our website on a quarterly basis, however in these difficult times work related to managing the pandemic is given priority and we cannot guarantee we will always meet this schedule.

[https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/business\\_rate\\_accounts](https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/business_rate_accounts)

I can also confirm that North West Leicestershire District Council holds the information you have requested regarding vacant properties. However, the information will not be released since it is exempt from disclosure under section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 31(1) (a) allows a public authority to withhold information if its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

To apply the exemption under section 31, we are obliged to undertake a public interest test. In this case, it is considered that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it and that therefore the information is exempt from release because information regarding empty properties could be used for criminal purposes.

The supply of information in response to a freedom of information request does not confer the right to re-use the information. UK copyright law allows information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research to be used without permission. Information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting except for in the case of photographs.

### **GOING FORWARD**

If you are dissatisfied with the information supplied please feel free to contact me on the number above for any queries in relation to this response. Please note that in responding to further enquiries I can only comment on the information contained within this correspondence and cannot provide any further information that may pertain to an additional FOIA request.

Please remember to quote the Authority's four digit reference number given at the top of this email in any future communications.

If you remain dissatisfied following the conclusion of the above informal review, you have the right to ask for an internal review. A request for a review whether formal or informal should be submitted within two calendar months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be sent to [DPO@NWLeicestershire.gov.uk](mailto:DPO@NWLeicestershire.gov.uk) or the address above.

Further details on our appeals and complaints procedure can be found on our website [here](#).

If you remain dissatisfied following the conclusion of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at [accessicoinformation@ico.org.uk](mailto:accessicoinformation@ico.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Mackenzie Keatley  
Information Governance Officer