

Request 8531 Empty Commercial Properties

A list of all the empty Commercial properties within the Council area since 01/01/2010 detailing:

- 1) Full address and postcode of property
- 2) Date the property has been empty from on or after 01/01/2010
- 3) Property Description: are premises Single or Mixed Use
 - a) If property is Mixed Use: please provide the different Categories eg storage or office etc
- 4) Business Class/Category: please provide relevant class / category, eg A1, A2 etc
- 5) Rateable square footage:
 - a) If Single Use, please provide rateable square footage
 - b) If Mixed Use, please provide individual square footage if applicable
- 6) Current rateable value
 - a) If Single Use, please provide current rateable value
 - b) If Mixed Use, please provide individual current rateable values
- 7) Freeholder Company Contact Details: the Company name and full Add

Response

We can confirm that the Council does hold information relevant to your request, details of NNDR rate payers that is able to be disclosed into the public domain, is already accessible to you and can be found on our [data pages](#).

We find the additional information you have requested, would directly identify and provide significant detail on empty properties. This detail is refused under s 31 (1) 'information is exempt if its disclosure under this Act would be likely to, prejudice -(a) the prevention and detection of crime' - we find that disclosure of these details are likely to have a significant negative impact on the prevention of crime.

Section 31(1) is a qualified exemption which means a public interest test must be applied to see whether it is reasonable to disclose some or all of the information into the public domain.

Any disclosure made under the Freedom of Information Act, must be considered to be to the public at large, there is a real risk that this information could be used for fraudulent activity and the disclosure of this ready collated information increases that risk of prejudice to the prevention of crime, in the form of criminal damage to property, squatting, arson and anti-social behaviour.

We believe it is in the public interest to protect the public purse, to protect property and to ensure resources are used efficiently. There is also a strong public interest in avoiding personal distress to the victims of crime and in relation to damage to properties where those in the neighbourhood may be negatively affected. The risk of prejudice to the prevention and protection of crime ranging from anti-social behaviour to identity fraud at significant public expense means the public interest in avoiding prejudice and maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure, and we decline to provide this detail to you.

We appreciate this response will be disappointing to you, but hope our explanation above is helpful.