



My Ref: FOI 6702
Enquiries to: Information Requests
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Requester,

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the council's current list of residential properties recorded as empty or unoccupied for Council Tax purposes, particularly long-term empty homes.

For each property, where held and disclosable, please provide:

- **the full postal address and postcode;**
- **the date it became empty, or the length of time it has been empty; and**
- **whether it is currently classed by the council as a long-term empty property.**

We are unable to provide addresses of empty residential properties as we consider disclosing this information would make them a target of crime. Therefore this information is exempt from disclosure under section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Pursuant to section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act), public authorities are not obliged to release information that would be likely to prejudice the functions of law enforcement- namely the prevention and detection of crime.

We have previously made enquiries to the Metropolitan Police which indicate the release of this type of information where buildings are situated, would increase the potential for:

- Buildings to be targeted by squatters
- Buildings to be targeted by criminals or terrorists intent on hiding or depositing proceeds of crime or terrorist materials
- Premises to be identified as short-term hiding places by criminals or terrorists
- Premises to be targeted by vandals or street artists

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Information Requests Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome 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: -

Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Email: <http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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