

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
C O U N C I L

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 003533
Date 1 May 2019

Business Rates

Request:

I would like a full and up to date list of businesses/companies/charities that have become newly liable for business rates from the 15/04/19-30/04/2019. Please include the following

- * Full business name/liable party
- * Full address including postcode of property they have recently become liable for
- * Date of new liability
- * Type of property

In response to your above request, Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at:

- Section 1(1) (a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held.
- The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

Your request for information has now been considered and the City of Wolverhampton Council is not obliged to supply the information you requested for the reasons set out below.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires City of Wolverhampton Council, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies:

In relation to your particular request, the following exemption applies:

Section 22 – Information Intended for Future Publication

We can confirm that City of Wolverhampton Council hold the information requested however a Section 22(1)(a)(b)(c) – Information Intended for Future Publication exemption has been applied to the data thereby exempting its release.

Section 22((a)(b)(c) – Information intended for Future Publication

“(1) information is exempt information if-

- (a) The information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not)
- (b) The information was already held with a view to such publication at the time the request for information was made, and
- (c) It is reasonable in all circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph”

Section 22 is a qualified class-based exemption and consideration must be given as to whether there is a public interest in providing the information prior to the anticipated publication.

Public Interest Test

City of Wolverhampton Council is committed to recognise there is a strong public interest to demonstrate openness, transparency and accountability with regards to the Freedom of Information legislation particularly in relation to an individual's right to know. We recognise that disclosure would provide reassurance that the City of Wolverhampton Council is processing the requests that it receives in a timely manner particularly as it would indicate how we are meeting our obligations as outline in the provisions of the Act.

Considerations favouring Non-Disclosure

City of Wolverhampton Council is committed to publishing information however we do not consider that it is in the public interest to place information into the public domain, prematurely, before pre-publication procedures have taken place.

We have therefore reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this information under Section 22 of the Act at this time, however this data will be available publicly soon and will be published on 1st July 2019 in the following link:

<http://data.wolverhampton.gov.uk/>

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]