



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 0515101
Date 23 May 2015

Empty Privately Owned Properties

Request:

I am writing under the freedom of information act 2000 concerning the number of empty privately owned 1,2 and 3 bedroom properties in Wolverhampton.

I would request this information is delivered electronically in the form of a spreadsheet - as a list of the addresses of all the empty privately owned 1,2 and 3 bedroom properties.

If you cannot provide all lines of the address, the ward area and postcode and type of property will suffice.

In response to your above request, after careful consideration the Council have decided not to release the information and are therefore issuing a Refusal Notice under Section 17.

The reason for this refusal is that the information is exempt under Section 31 (Law Enforcement) as identifying properties that are empty could make them vulnerable to illegal activities such as illegal occupation or other forms of antisocial behavior, making locations more vulnerable to crime. Therefore we consider that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. Section 31 (a) of the Freedom of Information Act is a qualified exemption; therefore we are required to consider the 'public interest' test when we consider this exemption to be engaged. Whilst we acknowledge the general interest in the transparency and accountability of the authority we consider that this interest is met. Whilst we appreciate that you may have specific interest in the requested information we need to consider the impact of disclosure into the wider public domain. On balance, the authority does not consider that the public interest in the information requested outweighs the interest in maintaining the exemption.

However, the information we can provide to you is the ward areas which we have listed below:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|
| Bilston East Ward | = | 133 |
| Bilston North Ward | = | 139 |
| Blakenhall Ward | = | 222 |

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----|
| Bushbury Ward | = | 119 |
| Bushbury South and Low Hill | = | 181 |
| East Park Ward | = | 138 |
| Ettingshall Ward | = | 191 |
| Fallings Park Ward | = | 106 |
| Graiseley Ward | = | 278 |
| Heath Town Ward | = | 165 |
| Merry Hill Ward | = | 130 |
| Oxley Ward | = | 92 |
| Park Ward | = | 327 |
| Penn Ward | = | 197 |
| Spring Vale Ward | = | 143 |
| St Peter's Ward | = | 289 |
| Tettenhall Regis Ward | = | 210 |
| Tettenhall Wightwick Ward | = | 206 |
| Wednesfield North | = | 89 |
| Wednesfield South Ward | = | 107 |

Please be aware of the following factors in respect of the data.

Our records do not identify property type so it has not been possible to restrict the response to just 1, 2 and 3 bedroom properties.

Other than Council owned property, our records do not identify classes of owner. This means that it has not been possible to exclude from the response property owned, for example, by Registered Social Landlords or commercial organisations.