



**MR STEPHEN NASH**

[request-10565-fcc71e7a@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-10565-fcc71e7a@whatdotheyknow.com)

**Geoff Connell**  
Chief Information  
Officer

**Ian Gibbs**  
Head of Information  
Governance

Ask for: Information  
Governance

Your ref :

Our ref: FOI/E3902.

Date: 15/06/2009

**Resources Directorate**  
**Information Governance**

Information Governance  
Newham Dockside  
1000 Dockside Road  
London

E16 2QU

Tel: 020 8430 3737

Fax: 020 8430 1504

Email:

[information.governance@newham.gov.uk](mailto:information.governance@newham.gov.uk)

Web: [www.newham.gov.uk](http://www.newham.gov.uk)

Dear Mr. Nash

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**  
**Request for Information: Stage 1 Appeal**  
**Please quote our reference: E3902.**  
**Subject: Empty Properties.**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information appeal.

The information initially supplied is from our Business Rate Service, which provided information on commercial empty properties. We do not always know who the owners are, as the owner may not be the liable person.

Furthermore, the name of the individual may not be in the public domain and therefore is subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998. This information would therefore be exempted under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

To check each individual empty commercial property about ownership (if the information is held) and compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998 would exceed the search limit of 2.5 days. We do not hold a list about the ownership of each commercial property and would have to check each individual record.

Information about the ownership of properties is held by the Land Registry Office. This information is therefore available to the public from another source. We have therefore applied the Section 21 exemption under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Information about LBN commercial empty properties is attached.

If you require any further information or are not happy with our response please do not hesitate to contact a member of our team on (020) 8430 3737 or email us at [information.governance@newham.gov.uk](mailto:information.governance@newham.gov.uk).

Yours Sincerely

**Information Governance**

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