



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



**Barrow Borough Council
Corporate Services Division
Legal Department**

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Natalie Davis
What Do They Know

Our Ref: JH/FOI0903

Contact Name: Jane Holden

Date: 01/06/09

Your Ref:

Tel No: 01229 876452

Dear Natalie

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Your request for information has now been considered. A response is now enclosed.

You have requested: -

- (a) the addresses and rateable values of empty commercial properties within Barrow-in-Furness Council area and;
- (b) the names of the owners of those properties referred to in (a).

In response to part (a) I am able to provide a report (see attached) that lists the address and rateable value for the 256 empty commercial properties within the Barrow Borough Council area.

Regarding part (b) of your request, the information held on the Council's Business Rates system comprises a mix of individuals, sole traders, charities, partnerships and limited companies. I must also point out that the information held may not necessarily be ownership details. The information we hold relates to the rate payer, who maybe an occupier or tenant.

In order to establish the owner of each of these properties identified in the report we would need to examine each individual property record. Following a sample test on 10 properties, I have ascertained that this would take at least 5 minutes per record, making the total work involved in excess of 21 hours to provide you with the information.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 recognises that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if the cost of complying would exceed the "appropriate limit" which is set at 18 hours. Having considered the requirements of Part B of your request we have taken the decision that we will refuse it under Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. If you have a complaint about

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If you have any queries, concerns or if you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact me as above.

If the complaint still cannot be resolved you may contact the Council's Assistant Director (Personnel & Performance) at the address given above.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow. Cheshire SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

Jane Holden
Corporate Services Officer

