

[request-34349-cb08ec90@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-34349-cb08ec90@whatdotheyknow.com)

Direct Line: 01732 227350  
Ask for: Ross Keatley  
Your ref:  
My ref: 131/2010  
Email: FOI@sevenoaks.gov.uk  
Date: 14 May 2010

Dear Ms Davis

**Freedom of Information Request: 131/2010**

Thank you for your request received by the Council 29 April 2010.

Your enquiry was:

*Please can you provide me with the following information under the Freedom Of Information Act 2000:-*

- a) *Addresses and rateable values of empty Commercial properties with a current rateable value between £18,000 and £20,000 that are within Sevenoaks District Council area; and*
- b) *The names and addresses of the owners of those properties referred to in (a)*

The Council's response is:

- a) *I can confirm that the Council holds this information.*

*Unfortunately the Council considers that the disclosure of addresses of empty properties could put at risk the security of these properties, as the vulnerability of empty properties to crime is well established. Disclosure of the information is therefore considered to be an action that could impede the Council's efforts in respect of the prevention of crime.*

*As such, the Council believes that this information is exempt under section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000. In forming this conclusion, the*

*Council has considered the public interest test. The view has been taken that avoiding damage to property outweighs other factors in favour of disclosure in this case.*

*I can, however, confirm that on 11 May 2010, there were 16 such properties within the Sevenoaks district and their rateable values are listed in the attached spreadsheet.*

- b) *Please see the attached spreadsheet outlining the business name and registered address of the business, please note these are not the same as the address of the empty property. In the case of 3 of the properties owners names and addresses have been removed as they are considered personal information and as such the disclosure of this information is considered exempt under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000.*

I trust the above information has been of assistance to you. Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the way we have processed your request the Council has an internal review process which you can begin by contacting Ally Round, Democratic Services Manager ([ally.round@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:ally.round@sevenoaks.gov.uk)). If you remain dissatisfied you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners' Office (ICO) [http://www.ico.gov.uk/complaints/freedom\\_of\\_information.aspx](http://www.ico.gov.uk/complaints/freedom_of_information.aspx)

Yours sincerely,

Ross Keatley  
Democratic Services Officer