

AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

This request was answered under the legislation indicated below:-

Statutory Deadline

- DP Data Protection Act 1998 (£10 fee payable) +40 elapsed days after date of receipt*
- FOI Freedom of Information Act 2000 (usually free) +20 working days after date of receipt*
- EIR Environmental Information Regulations 2004 +20 working days after date of receipt*
- EIR exceptionally extended +40 working days after date of receipt*

Date Received on: 6th April 2010 Reply Due by: 4th May 2010



Request Reference
FOI 1037

Date Reply Sent:
29th April 2010

Question asked (as phrased by customer)

From: Rachel House [<mailto:request-31961-98c8a671@whatdotheyknow.com>]
Sent: 04 April 2010 01:33
To: Data Protection
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Homelessness in Aylesbury

Dear Aylesbury Vale District Council,

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, I wish to receive the following information from your authority:

1. Number of empty/abandoned buildings for lease and/or sale within a 3 mile radius of Aylesbury town centre?

AVDC response

Dear Rachel House,

Thank you for your information request to Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC).

Please note our systems do not allow us to identify the distance from Aylesbury town centre so figures given are for the whole of the area covered by AVDC.

1.
Residential: As at 1 April 2009 for the whole of the Aylesbury Vale District there were 1442 empty residential properties of which 331 had been empty for more than 6 months. These figures are provided from Council Tax records and are provided annually. They are not updated through the year, the figures for April 2010 are to be confirmed.

Commercial: 515 properties empty, as taken from our Northgate system relating to Business Rates. We are not however able to ascertain how many of these are "abandoned".

2. Statistics on the number of homeless people from the last 12 months in the area of Aylesbury and surrounding areas?

3. Statistics on number of enquiries/applications regarding homelessness through AVDC the last 12 months?

4. A list of all funding available to apply for help towards starting a homeless shelter in Aylesbury?

5. A list of contacts who would be able to help with regards to how to help shorten length of / reduce number of people who already are / try and avoid homelessness?

Some parts of this request may be easier to answer than others, and should this prove to be the case I would ask that you release available data as soon as possible rather than hold up the entire request.

I would prefer to receive this information electronically. If the decision is made to withhold some of this data using exemptions in Act, please inform me of that fact and cite the exemptions used.

If you need any clarification then please contact me at the email.

Under your section 16 duty to provide advice

2. The number of homelessness accepted as homeless, in priority need and unintentionally homeless in the last 12 months (between 1/4/09 to 31/04/10) = 93

3. The number of enquires/applications regarding homelessness through AVDC from 1/04/09 to 31/03/10 =1003

4. We have not currently identified any capital or revenue funding to provide or operate a homelessness shelter at this stage. In the past, the Council has demonstrated its commitment to homelessness by contributing to the capital funding of Griffin Place (a facility for statutorily homeless people) and the new Bearbrook scheme for single homeless people with support needs.

5. Please find the AVDC Housing Advice Directory attached.

Should you require further information, please contact records@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk or write to the address below.

If you feel that your request has not been properly handled or if you are dissatisfied with the outcome, you can request an internal review in accordance with the Council's Comments and Complaints procedure. You will find details of the procedure on our website www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk under the heading Council and Democracy.

Please note that you have the right to make a complaint direct to the Information Commissioner and details on how to do this

and assistance I would expect you to contact me if you find this request unmanageable in any way.

I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request, and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours faithfully,

Rachel House

Disclaimer: This message and any reply that you make will be published on the internet. Our privacy and copyright policies:

<http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/help/about#officers>

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:
request-31961-98c8a671@whatdotheyknow.com

Is records@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk the wrong address for Freedom of Information requests to Aylesbury Vale District Council? If so please contact us using this form:
<http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/help/contact>

If you find WhatDoTheyKnow useful as an FOI officer, please ask your web manager to suggest us on your organisation's FOI page.

are set out on the Information Commissioner's website www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk under the heading "Complaints". The Information Commissioner, however, will normally expect a complainant to have exhausted a public authority's internal review procedures first.

Yours sincerely,
Karen McMahon
On behalf of the Head of IT

IT Division
Aylesbury Vale District Council
4 Great Western Street
Aylesbury
Bucks, HP20 2TW

Enc.

INFORMATIVES

1. The legislation gives a right of access to information contained within records which is not necessarily the same as access to records themselves. Sometimes this can be most efficiently achieved by providing copies of the original documents. On other occasions the raw documents could be difficult to interpret - due to the use of jargon, or because the information sought is only a small part of a much larger document covering also other matters beyond the scope of the request, or we may have reason to withhold some or all of the information under a statutory FOI exemption or EIR exception. This form offers a means of summarising and/or providing interpretation in these circumstances so as to reduce costs and improve clarity.
2. If you are dissatisfied with our response or wish to seek further explanation or make a comment please contact us again – see our publication scheme on website www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk or our Corporate Complaints leaflet “If we’ve got it right or wrong” for details of the procedure.
3. Please note that you do have a right to make a complaint direct to the Information Commissioner and details on how to do this are set out on the Information Commissioner’s website www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk under the heading “How to make a complaint”