



**Freedom of Information Team
Knowledge and Information Management Unit
Cabinet Office**

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L.C. Looi
request-160168-9ab67fab@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI Reference: FOI317896
11 June 2013

Dear L.C. Looi

Ref: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your request where you asked:

Can you provide me with the following information under the
Freedom Of Information Act 2000:-

- (a) addresses of any empty buildings (be it commercial or residential or industrial or industrial or storage facility etc) which belongs to yourselves
- (b) addresses of any buildings (be it commercial or residential or industrial or storage or medical facility) which belongs to yourselves, that are scheduled to be vacant in the next 12 months for whatever reason.
- (c) if possible, type of use (eg. storage, office, warehouse, training, staff accommodation, medical facility etc) of those buildings referred to in (a) and (b)
- (d) if possible, approximate date (month and year) from which it became empty or will become empty, of those buildings referred to in (a) and (b)

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is held by the Cabinet Office.

The Cabinet Office is responsible for three freehold office buildings that are empty. These are Admiralty Arch and 36 Whitehall (both in London SW1) and an isolated annex building at the Emergency Planning College (EPC) in Easingwold, Yorkshire. Admiralty Arch and 36 Whitehall were vacated over summer and autumn 2012 respectively. The annex building at the EPC was vacated many years ago.

Admiralty Arch is no longer required by the Cabinet Office or wider Government for office use and an agreement to lease the building for hotel use has been concluded. 36 Whitehall is expected to be re-used within Government as office space, once modernisation works (eg open planning to provide more efficient office space) and infrastructure renewal work has been completed.

Finally, there are eight other properties at the Emergency Planning College site which have been vacant for many years. These are essentially individual residential properties but which are categorised by the local planning authority as business premises, as they were formerly used to accommodate College staff who were located on site. The properties are not currently habitable and would need significant investment if they were to be brought back into use as well as agreement from the local planning authority to change the use class categorisation to residential.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the FOI team. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Roger Smethurst
Head of Knowledge and Information Management
Cabinet Office
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

email: foi.team@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. P." followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line.

FOI Team
Cabinet Office