

## Response of Goldsmiths, University of London to FOI request 13-3-13 from LC Looi concerning empty properties

(a) addresses of any empty buildings (be it commercial or residential or industrial or storage facility etc) which belongs to yourselves.	Please see chart below.
(b) addresses of any buildings (be it commercial or residential or industrial or storage) which belongs to yourselves, that are scheduled to be vacant in the next 12 months for whatever reason.	No definite plans - although there could be one property vacated for sale within the next twelve months.
(c) if possible, type of use (eg. storage, office, warehouse, training, staff accommodation 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).	Please see chart below for information about buildings in (a) only.
(e) who in your organisation is in charge of the running of the estate or properties.	Ms Catriona Boulton, Interim Director of Estates and Facilities

<b>Location of building</b>	London SE14	Block 3 St James Halls, on the College campus at: Goldsmiths, University of London New Cross London SE14 6NW.	302 - 314 New Cross Road London SE14.	Sidcup, Kent.
<b>Usage</b>	2 flats - residential	Used as storage until November 2012; now unused because of rot and mould.	Mixed residential and commercial. All residential and office space vacant; shops on ground floors partly occupied.	2 residential flats.
<b>Dates</b>	Empty since 2006 apart from a two-year period of squatting. (Now in process of being sold.)	Empty in terms of human occupation since approx 2004-05.	Mixture of vacancy dates since 2000.	Since 2004 and 2010 respectively.

## **REFUSAL NOTICE (issued under Section 17, Freedom of Information Act (2000))**

In withholding the exact addresses of some of these properties, which is confirmed to be information held by the College, the College is relying on the Exemption in Section 31(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, which concerns crime prevention.

The disclosure of exact addresses in areas detached from the main campus would be particularly likely to encourage crime against those properties. The growth of crime in this way would not be generally in the public interest. In particular, where there is adjacent occupied residential property, there is likely to be distress caused to individual local residents: that is the case in both instances relevant here (and in at least one instance elderly people would be among those affected).

Where a property is in the late stages of a sale process, crime would be likely to disrupt that process, leading to unnecessary costs to the College as current owner. This in turn would be generally detrimental to the core activities of the College as an educational charity, which exists for the public benefit.

If you wish to complain about the way in which this request has been handled, you should write to the Chair of Council at the following address, from which it will be forwarded to her unopened:

*PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL*  
*Chair of Council*  
*c/o Registrar and Secretary's Office*  
*Goldsmiths, University of London*  
*New Cross*  
*London SE14 6NW*

The Colleges FOI complaints procedure at <http://www.gold.ac.uk/media/foi-complaints-procedure.pdf> applies.

If, following a complaint to the Chair of Council, you were still dissatisfied with the College's handling of your request, you would have a right under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act to take this matter to the Information Commissioner at:

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