



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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www.eastcambs.gov.uk

Further to your information request FOI/EIR 18/19-419 please find your question and our response below.

Request:

I am aware that Billing Authorities hold on account sums of money that are due to be returned to ratepayers and for a variety of reasons have not been repaid.

I therefore request a breakdown of credit balances accrued since your earliest records, for the amounts owing to all incorporated companies within your authority's billing area, including the following information: (the report you currently have on your website is showing no ratepayers in credit).

A. The legal name of each business in respect of which non-domestic rate credit balances remain payable

B. The value of overpayment in each case which remains unclaimed

C. The years(s) in which overpayment was made

D. The hereditament address

E. The legal name of each business in respect of which non-domestic rate credit balances have been written back on to the NDR account

F. The value of write back in each case which remains unclaimed

G. The years(s) in which the write back was made (if available)

H. The hereditament address that the write back relates to.

Response:

In respect of those requests that were answered in full or partially and the total refused please take this as notice under FOIA, that we:

a) Consider the information as exempt from disclosure under the Act;

b) Claim exempt under sections of the Act:

Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

c) State why the exemption applies:

We receive a number of request for information which relate to Business Rate Accounts (non-domestic properties). To address these requests we are now publishing specific information on our Open Data page monthly.

The following datasets are available to you on this page:

- ***Business Rates Relief***
- ***Business Rates Write On Accounts***
- ***Business Rates Accounts in Credit***

The information that you have requested forms part of one of the above mentioned datasets. I have provided a link below to the Open Data page for your ease of reference. Therefore as the information is accessible to you via other means, the request is refused under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

www.eastcambs.gov.uk/notices/open-data

Section 21 (Information accessible to the applicant by other means)

1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under Section 1 is exempt information.

2) For the purposes of subsection (1) –

a. Information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and

b. Information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under

any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 18/19-419

If information has been refused please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach foi@eastcambs.gov.uk. and request a review.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.