



Doncaster
Metropolitan Borough Council

Mr G Elton
request-352697-
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Contact: Miss J Gaskell
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Email: FOI@doncaster.gov.uk
Website: www.doncaster.gov.uk
Date: 23rd August 2016

Dear Mr Elton

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 18th August 2016 for information about business rates properties. Please find attached the information you have requested in respect of limited companies.

I have omitted information regarding empty properties due to the following.

Notice under Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 - REFUSAL TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION

Decision:

After carefully considering your request, the Council has decided to refuse to disclose the information you have asked for under Section 17 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is in light of the decision made by the Upper Tribunal on the 22nd January 2013 regarding a request for information regarding empty properties made to the London Borough of Camden. In this case the Tribunal decided that section 31(1) (a) was engaged and it was accepted that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Basis for decision:

This law allows us to refuse to disclose information, through the Freedom of Information Act process, which refers to "public interest". This is called an "exemption". Why does the exemption apply in this case?:

Public Interest Test:

This exemption is qualified and on that basis I have considered whether or not in this case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. This is in light of the decision made by the Upper Tribunal on the 22nd January 2013 regarding a request for information regarding empty properties made to the London Borough of Camden. In this case the Tribunal decided that section 31(1)(a) was engaged and it was accepted that the public interest in maintaining the exemption

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outweighs the public interest in disclosure of information to identify empty premises. It was viewed that the public interest in avoiding prejudice to the prevention of crime outweighs the public interest in disclosure in all the circumstances of this case.

Based on the decision in this case I do not consider that the public interest outweighs the need to protect against the risk of criminal acts being committed if the Council released this information at this time.

I hope that this information is useful to you.

Doncaster Council estimate that it has cost £50.00 to respond to this request for information.

Reviewing any decisions made:

You can ask us to review any decisions made about your request. You do this by writing to Freedom of Information Officer,
Doncaster Council,
Civic Office,
Waterdale
Doncaster,
DN1 3BU
E-mail: FOIAppeals@doncaster.gov.uk

You can apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision about our compliance or otherwise with the Freedom of Information legislation. Please contact the Commissioner for details on how to do this - telephone 01625 545700, address: Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Internet: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>

Yours sincerely,

Miss J Gaskell
Technical Adjudication and Control Officer