

Date: 5th May 2022

Matthew Settle
[request-858921-2bbc0057@whatdotheyknow.com](#)

Our Ref: 220485/F3a
Direct Line: 01253 477477
Email: foi@blackpool.gov.uk

Dear Mr Settle,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information you requested on 04/05/22. I wish to advise you that some information cannot be disclosed as exemptions apply.

A copy of the information that can be disclosed to you is shown below.

Please can you provide me with a list of dwellings for which you are currently charging a premium of council tax as they have been empty for more than 2 years?

Please provide the address of the dwelling and the level of premium you are charging.

584 properties registered under Long Term Empty Premium.

Where some of the information has been withheld because an exemption(s) applies, I have described the exemption and reason below.

The exemption(s) applied:
Section 31 – Law Enforcement

This applies because:

Section 31(1)(a) relates to the prevention or detection of crime. It is the Council's view that the empty property address information requested, if disclosed to the public domain, could lead to crime and potential anti-social behaviour. This would then cause strain on Blackpool Council, local policing, or cause distress within the local community.

Section 31 is a qualified exemption and therefore a public interest test is required. The information requested has not been provided because the public and local communities surrounding any such empty residential properties would expect the Council to prevent possible anti-social behaviour/crime on these empty properties. Blackpool Council does not publish a list of empty residential properties for this



reason. It is therefore the Council's opinion that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request you may ask for an internal review and you should submit this in writing to: FOI Internal Review, Blackpool Council, PO Box 4, Blackpool, FY1 1NA. Your request for internal review should be submitted within 40 working days of receipt by you of this response.

If you are not happy with the outcome of the review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. You can contact the Information Commissioner at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, (www.ico.org.uk).

If you have any queries about this letter you can contact me, or write to: FOI, PO Box 4, Blackpool, FY1 1NA, or email us at FOI@blackpool.gov.uk. Please remember to quote your reference number when you contact us.

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Team

