



**Valuation Office
Agency**

Thomas Lindie
Director of Regional Valuation,
Property Data and Central Operations

Valuation Office Agency

8th Floor
10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4PU

To: Colin Arthur

Email: [request-513092-
681da629@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-513092-681da629@whatdotheyknow.com)

Email: foi@voa.gsi.gov.uk

Our Reference: 11793402.1/CEO

Date: 10 September 2018

Dear Mr Arthur

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000
VOA ref: 11793402.1/CEO

Thank you for your request for information under the FOIA which was received on 26 August 2018.

Your request for information under the FOIA:

"How many reviews have taken place since 1.1.2007 as a result of dwellings being restructured and how many reviews have resulted in no-change to the Tax Band ?

Is a regular audit carried out to ascertain that all planning approvals calling for a change in tax band have been carried out by the District Council?"

Response to your request:

Regarding your initial question; we need some clarity from you so that we can either locate or better understand the information you are requesting.

You refer to "*dwellings being restructured*". This could relate to properties for example, having been demolished and rebuilt, or extended, or improved. Please confirm specifically what is meant by the term restructured.

Further, it is unclear which part of England or Wales that your request refers to. It would be helpful to understand which Billing Authority your request relates to.

We are requesting this clarification under section 1(3) of the FOIA and I include an appendix which sets out the legislation in full.

Please send your clarified request, quoting the reference number above to foi@voa.gsi.gov.uk.

Alternatively, you can make a request by writing to:

The Valuation Office Agency,
Freedom of Information Team,
8th Floor
10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4PU

In answer to the second part of your request; there is no audit undertaken. Requests for alteration to the list do not always result in a band change. Additionally, we are not always informed of changes by the Billing Authorities.

Provision of information outside of the FOIA:

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) publishes some statistical information relating to challenges and changes to the Council Tax Lists which can be viewed via the following link:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/valuation-office-agency-council-tax-statistics#2018>

If you are unhappy with this reply you may request a review by email to: foi@voa.gsi.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can make a request by writing to: Valuation Office Agency, Information Law and Disclosure Team, 8th Floor, 10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4PU.

A request for a review must be received within 2 months of the date of this letter. To assist our review, please set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not content with the outcome of our review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Valuation Office Agency. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Thomas Lindie

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Appendix - Freedom of Information Act, 2000 (request)

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents>

Under section 1(3) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) a public authority need not comply with a request unless any further information reasonably required to locate the information is supplied.

Section 1 refers to a general right of access to information held by public authorities.

- (1) Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
 - (a) To be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
 - (b) If that is the case, to have that information communicated to him.
- (2) Subsection (1) has effect subject to the following provisions of this section and to the provisions of sections 2, 9, 12 and 14.
- (3) Where a public authority—
 - (a) Reasonably requires further information in order to identify and locate the information requested, and
 - (b) Has informed the applicant of that requirement,
The authority is not obliged to comply with subsection (1) unless it is supplied with that further information.