

Paul Norris
whatdotheyknow.com

Resources Directorate
2nd Floor (West)
Civic Hall
Leeds LS1 1JF

Contact: Paul Burns
res.customer.contact@leeds.gov.uk
Our reference: FOI 7782
2 May 2012

Dear Paul Norris

Freedom of Information Request: Empty Commercial Property

I am writing regarding your Freedom of Information (the Act) request which I received on 25 April 2012. In your request you asked for the following information:

1. The addresses and a brief description (e.g., shop, office, etc), BA reference and rateable value of all vacant commercial premises with a current rateable value over £40,000 within the Leeds City Council area.
2. The names and addresses of the organisations or companies who are liable to pay rates at the premises referred to in (1)

The attached spreadsheet contains details of all properties with a rateable value over £40,000 which showed as unoccupied on our Non Domestic Rates records as at 25th April 2012.

The disclosure of information regarding individuals is exempt under section 40 (Personal Information) of the Act. Details of any property owned by an individual have been removed.

The contact address has not been disclosed. Many of the accounts are issued to professional rating agents or other third parties with whom the ratepayer has a commercial relationship and we believe that it would be a breach of confidentiality to disclose this information and therefore the exemption under Section 41 is applicable. Furthermore Section 21 (Information reasonably accessible) is also applicable as the registered offices of all limited companies are publicly available via Companies House.

I trust my reply serves to assist in your enquiry. If you have any queries about this letter, please feel free to contact me.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to:

Freepost RLZR-ELTX-RUEH
Leeds City Council
PO Box 657
LS1 9BS

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Leeds City Council.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Paul Burns
Freedom of Information & Data Protection Officer