



**Place Directorate
Culture and Housing**
Phillip Spurr, Service Director

B Smith
By email to: request-528285-94f8d9d9@whatdotheyknow.com

My Ref: FOIA/3081
Your Ref:
Date: 26 October 2018
Enquiries to: Tom Grierson
Direct Dial: 01226 770770
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear B Smith

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the Place Directorate has now completed its search for the information which you requested by e-mail on 24 October 2018.

Your questions and my findings are as follows:-

1. Having the powers to enforce a sale on long term properties why is this the first time BMBC have decided to use their powers?

BMBC has a range of powers and interventions that we have used and continue to use on empty homes to bring them back into use. The 4 properties referenced were the first where the use of these powers was deemed appropriate.

2. Having the powers to enforce a sale on long term properties, the council have just achieved the enforced sale on four long term problematic properties, how long has this taken from 'reviewing the property, contacting the owner and enforcing the sale', taking into account your team has been in place since May 2018?

The enforced sales process is the end point of a long process of trying to engage and support the owner to bring their property back into use so unfortunately there is no set timeframe as each individual property is different.

3. How many properties are empty across Barnsley region?

- a. Empty between 1-2 years
- b. Empty 3-5 years
- c. Empty 6-9 years
- d. Empty 10+ years

Information is not held in this format, it is held as follows:

6 months-2 years – 935 properties

2-5 years – 311 properties
5-10 years – 167 properties
10 years+ – 72 properties

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Tom Grierson on (01226) 770770. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Customer Feedback and Improvement Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:-

Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Website address: www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely



Phillip Spurr
Service Director – Culture and Housing

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