



### **Legal Services**

**The Business Centre, Futures Park, Bacup,  
OL13 0BB**

This matter is being dealt with by:

Name: Abigail Wrench

Telephone: 01706 252459

Email: [foi@rossendalebc.gov.uk](mailto:foi@rossendalebc.gov.uk)

Our reference: JW/FOI/7462

Date: 31.05.2019

Dear Jaya

### **RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

I have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and Rossendale Borough Council's response is as follows:-

#### **Your Request**

- 1) Can the council confirm their current number of Long Term Empty Properties as of the 8th May (those domestic properties which have been empty for six months or older)**

556 properties

NB:

- as at **16<sup>th</sup>** May when the request was received.
- Includes vacant (empty and unfurnished) property for more than 6 months
- Does not include unoccupied property exempt from council tax
- Does not include 61 properties vacant and undergoing or in need of structural alteration and/or major repair for up to 12 months

- 2) What work is the council currently undertaking or planning to undertake around reducing their long term empty properties in 2019?**

We are currently working with the owners of long term empty properties to bring them back into use. This includes mixture of advice, support and enforcement.

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- 3) During 2018 did you undertake any work around reducing your Long Term Empty Properties? If you did was this done using internal resource or a third party?**

Work did take place to reduce long-term empties over 2018 and this was done using internal resources.

- 4) If yes is the answer to question three, did the council review every single long term property**

No

- 5) Does the reduction of empty homes in the council area form part of your Housing strategy?**

Yes

- 6) Does the council have a budget in place to help support the reduction of empty properties?**

No

- 7) How much did the council spend on temporary accommodation during 2018?**

In 2018/19 Temporary Housing (Hostels and hotels) costs were £21,103.50 and Local Authority stock costs were £3,320

- 8) Do the council offer financial support /loans to Long Term Empty property owners to help them bring properties back into use?**

No

### Right to Review

If you wish to request a review of your response, please contact Freedom of Information, Committee and Member Services Team, Rossendale Borough Council, The Business Centre, Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB or email [foi@rossendalebc.gov.uk](mailto:foi@rossendalebc.gov.uk)

If you remain dissatisfied you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 54 57 45 or visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/>

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely,



Abigail Wrench  
Legal Officer

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