



**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**Response/Digest FOI:** 0177

**Wrexham County Borough Council does hold the information requested.**

**REQUEST:**

Could you please supply me with the details of all empty properties you hold on your register and details of the property owners wherever possible.  
I request the details for domestic and retail and commercial properties within your area.

**RESPONSE**

- Exemption granted in regard to residential properties:

**Section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement: Prevention & Detection of Crime**

Under section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”), information is exempt from disclosure where its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. The exemption is qualified by a public interest test. By releasing information about residential properties which may currently be vacant into the public domain, the information could be used for unlawful occupation, conduct of illegal activity on the premises, theft, anti-social behaviour, vandalism (and therefore damage to the owner’s asset), etc. The Council has proceeded to consider the public interest in relation to disclosure. In doing so, the Council took account of the significant public interest in transparency and accountability. However, in considering the factors which weighed against disclosure in this case, the Council recognised that there was a significant public interest in preventing crime. The Council therefore came to the conclusion that disclosure of the method used was not in the public interest and indeed that there was no factor which pointed to disclosure being appropriate in this case

- Please see attached spreadsheet for commercial properties