# AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL RESPONSE TO INFORMATION REQUEST

This request was answered under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

Reference: FOI 3933 - NNDR

Date Reply Sent: 8/12/2014



## REQUEST

Please provide a complete list of business addresses and their occupiers with rateable values between £2,000 and £12,000 that are NOT in receipt of small business rate relief.

Please also list their property description, actual liability (i.e. rates payable), what date they are liable from and indicate if the account is live or not.

## **RESPONSE**

Thank you for your information request to Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC).

For live accounts:

We confirm we hold the information requested.

However, Section 21 of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act does not require a public authority to supply information requested where it is reasonably available to the applicant.

The information you have requested is available on our public website and so is reasonably available to the general public. We are therefore refusing your request under Section 21.

The information requested can be found on the following web page:

http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/about/accessinginformation/business-rates-freedom-informationrequests/

Please note you will need to cross-reference across the spreadsheets to obtain the information you require.

Rates payable can be calculated from the rateable values using the national multiplier, the details of which can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-rates-information-letter-32013

We are therefore refusing this part of your request under Section 21 of the Act which allows a public authority to refuse information which is reasonably available to the applicant by other means. In this case the information is reasonably available as outlined above. For closed accounts:

There are over 2000 properties that fall within the RV limits specified and as we have no way of generating a report to show the accounts at these properties since 2005 and whether they are currently claiming SBRR. Each property that falls in the RV parameters for the specified time could have multiple accounts and each will need to be checked manually. We estimate it would require 2 minutes to check each account.

2 mins  $\times$  2000 accounts = 4000 mins.

4000 mins / 60 = 66.6 hours.

We therefore estimate that compliance with this part of your request would exceed the appropriate costs limit under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (£450, 18 hours at £25 per hour), and are refusing it.

Should you require further information, please contact records@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk or write to The Administration and Information Officer, IT Division, Aylesbury Vale District Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 8FF.

If you feel that your request has not been properly handled or if you are dissatisfied with the outcome, you can request an internal review by e-mailing us at the above address, or writing to us at:

Information and Administration Officer IT Division
Aylesbury Vale District Council
The Gateway
Gatehouse Road
Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire
HP19 8FF

Please note that you have the right to make a complaint direct to the Information Commissioner and details on how to do this are set out on the Information Commissioner's website

<u>www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk</u>. The Information Commissioner, however, will normally expect a complainant to have exhausted a public authority's internal review procedures first.

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#### **Data Protection**

AVDC is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 1998. We hold information for the purposes specified in our notification to the Information Commissioner and may use this information for any of them. We may receive information about you from other organisations, or we may give information to them. If we do it will only be as the law permits, to check the accuracy of information, to prevent fraud or detect crime, or to protect public funds.