

FOI number: **HBC_FOI_20210055**
Date FOI Received: **27/01/2021**
Department: **Business Rates**
Title: **Empty Commercial Properties 2010-2021**
Description: **Empty Commercial Properties 2010-2021**

Request: (As Redacted sent by requestor)

A list of all the empty Commercial properties within the Council area since 01/01/2010 detailing:

- 1) Full address and postcode of property
- 2) Date the property has been empty from on or after 01/01/2010
- 3) Property Description: are premises Single or Mixed Use
 - a) If property is Mixed Use: please provide the different Categories eg storage or office etc
- 4) Business Class/Category: please provide relevant class / category, eg A1, A2 etc
- 5) Rateable square footage:
 - a) If Single Use, please provide rateable square footage
 - b) If Mixed Use, please provide individual square footage if applicable
- 6) Current rateable value
 - a) If Single Use, please provide current rateable value
 - b) If Mixed Use, please provide individual current rateable values
- 7) Freeholder Company Contact Details: the Company name and full Address

Response: (Response as Redacted sent by service)

The Council confirms that it holds the information but refuses to disclose it for the following reason:

The Council is concerned that publishing this information would be likely to facilitate the commission of criminal offences such as fraudulent applications for Covid related business support grants, burglary and criminal damage. It may also be likely to lead to trespass.

In this regard the Council relies on the exemption provided for by Section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in that disclosure would be likely to prejudice the prevention of crime.

Any benefit to the public by the dissemination of this information would be outweighed by the public interest in ensuring that criminals are not aided in identifying empty properties in the Council's district.

If you have any queries about the processing of your request then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information explaining the Council's process for responding to information requests together with a complaints/appeals procedure is available in our reception or via our website at:

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Access-to-Information.aspx>

The Information Commissioner oversees the application of the Freedom of Information Act. You may contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House, Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545700
Website: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please include the above reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

Thank you for your request.

Kind regards
Information Services

Information Services

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