

From: [FOI Responses](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI Request - [REDACTED] - Response
Date: 08 February 2024 13:55:00

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 25 January 2024, for information about vacant / derelict properties.

Please find below City of Doncaster Council's responses to the questions you have raised.

Request:

" Please look at the response to my recent FOI request and provide the addresses and not just the regions of the borough where vacant / derelict properties may be found."

Response:

This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of information Act. Section 31 exempts information from the right of access under the Freedom of Information Act if disclosure would prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

We consider that the disclosure of the information would be likely to prejudice the prevention of crime as it is believed that if a list of the addresses of vacant and derelict properties were to be disclosed, then these properties would become more vulnerable to squatting, associated crime and other forms of criminal activity, including but not limited to criminal damage, extraction of electricity and the stripping of empty properties and would increase the social and economic costs in these areas as a result.

As Section 31 is a qualified exemption, the Council is obliged to consider whether disclosure of the information would be in the public interest before refusing to supply the information. Therefore the Council has taken the following factors into account:

Factors for disclosing information:

- To release the information would be in the spirit of openness and transparency in which the Council operates.
- The information is of interest to some members of the public.

Factors for withholding information:

- There is a strong public interest in avoiding the likely prejudice to the prevention of crime. Tackling crime involves a significant strain on public expense and it is in the public interest to ensure that public resources are used cost-effectively.
- The information may contribute to criminal knowledge
- The public interest in avoiding damage to property
- The efficient use of public and police resources
- The potential for indirect consequences of crime, for example the impact on neighbouring properties of crimes perpetrated on the empty properties

Taking these factors into consideration, the Council has decided that the reasons for withholding the information outweigh those for disclosing it and we will not be providing the information at this time.

I hope that this information is useful to you.

City of Doncaster Council estimates that it has cost £46.00 to respond to this request for information.

Reviewing any decisions made:

If you are not happy with this reply you can ask us to review our response. To do this write to us within 40 working days of receiving your response at the address below or email FOIAppeals@doncaster.gov.uk

If you do not agree with the review decision you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision about our compliance or otherwise with the Freedom of Information legislation. Contact details for the ICO are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. www.ico.org.uk Telephone 0303 123 1113.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy McMahon
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Corporate Resources
City of Doncaster Council

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