

**FOI/38/12**

**REQUEST**

This is a request for information, related to Business Rates, filed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide the following information in respect of properties that have had an empty rate charge levied at any time since 1st April 2008.

- **The property addresses and property reference number**
- **The ratepayer name(s), if the ratepayer was/is a Limited Company**
- **Start and end date of the empty period for which empty rates have been levied.**

**RESPONSE**

I refer to your email 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012 and can confirm the Council is required to disclose details of those properties **not owned** by individuals. However, we do not hold owner details for the purposes of Council Tax & NNDR Business Rates. If we do, this is not a specific requirement for CTAX and NNDR administration and the information could be out of date. Even freehold properties can be let to a third party so there is no guarantee that the primary liable party is the owner.

**(In order to comply with Section 40 (2) (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 we are not able to provide details of any properties owned by individuals. The Council's records are not required to distinguish the ownership of a property between those owned/not owned by individuals and so to release any information would constitute a potential breach of the Act. In this situation the Council has a responsibility to its residents not to put itself in a position where it could be liable to action by persons affected.)**