



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Further to your information request FOI/EIR 22/23-097 please find your question and our response below.

Request:

We are aware of the fact that Billing Authorities hold on account sums of money that are due to be returned to ratepayers and for a variety of reasons have not been repaid.

I therefore request a breakdown of any write on balances accrued since your earliest records, for the amounts owing to all incorporated companies within your authority's billing area, including the following information:

- A. The legal name of each business in respect of which Non-Domestic rate credit balances remain payable
- B. The value of overpayment in each case which remains unclaimed
- C. The years(s) in which overpayment was made
- D. The hereditament address
- E. The legal name of each business in respect of which Non-Domestic rate credit balances have been written back on to the NDR account
- F. The value of write back in each case which remains unclaimed
- G. The years(s) in which the write back was made (if available)
- H. The hereditament address that the write back relates to

Response:

This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In respect of those requests that are answered in full, partially or the total refused, please take this as notice under FOIA, that we:

- a) Consider the information as exempt from disclosure under the Act;
- b) Claim exempt under sections of the Act:

Section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement

- c) State why the exemption applies:

31(1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice - (a) the prevention or detection of crime.

Section 31(1)(a) provides an exemption where prejudice could be caused to allow potential fraudsters to use the information to identify business entities or individuals which were entitled to claim credits on their accounts. Once such a business or individual had been identified, there would be a number of avenues open to the fraudsters to seek to obtain funds.

Disclosure of this information would result in the need to implement disproportionate steps and additional expense to the public purse to counter an increased fraud risk that does not exist at present and this information will therefore not be released.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 22/23-097

If information has been refused please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach foi@eastcambs.gov.uk and request a review. A request for review must be made in no more than 40 working days from the date of this email.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.