



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE,
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Further to your information request FOI/EIR 22/23-336 please find your question and our response below.

Request:

In terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and subject to section 40(2) on excluding personal data, could you please provide me with a complete and up-to-date current snapshot of all business (non-residential) property rates data for your local authority, including the following fields:

- Firm's Trading Name (i.e. the ratepayer)
- Property Address (Number, Street, Town)
- Property Post Code
- Billing Authority Property Reference Code (linking the property to the VOA database reference)
- 2017 Rateable Value
- Liability Start Date (for current ratepayer)
- Reliefs Applied (i.e. SBRR, retail relief etc.)
- Empty (Y/N)
- Empty Start Date (if applicable)
- Empty Exemptions Applied (i.e. listed building, land etc.)
- Property Description
- Net Annual Rates Charged 2022/23 (after any reliefs/exemptions etc.)

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; or to identify which businesses are empty. 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 22/23-336

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.