



Further to your information request FOI/EIR 24/25-039, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

In accordance with the provisions specified within the above Act I hereby request the following information or an update of the information since the last request. All information requested relates to Business Rates.

Required Information; - A list of all live business rates accounts with a 2017 list Rateable Value greater than or equal to £5,000.

- Property Reference Number (also known as Billing Authority Reference Number) of the property on which the charge is made. Please note that this is not the Rate Demand or Rate Account Number.
- Current rateable value
- Account holder name
- Property address
- The billing address (where different to the property address), the contact telephone number and email address
- The date the current ratepayer became liable for the business rates – we do not require any historical account liability dates only the current ratepayer's liability start date
- Where a property is currently empty, please do not provide the data
- Where there is an exemption on the account, please provide the start and end date and type of exemption applied (e.g. listed building)
- Where there is a relief on the account, please provide the date it was applied and the type of relief (e.g. charity)
- We do not require any personal information or sole traders.

Response:

East Cambridgeshire District Council confirms that we do hold the information requested, but has taken guidance from the ICO decision notice ([Microsoft Word - DN for website \(ico.org.uk\)](#)) and we no longer provide Business Rates information.

Section 41(1)(a) of the Act provides that information is exempt if it was obtained by the public authority from any other person (or company, local authority or any other legal entity) and disclosure of the information to the public by the public authority holding it, would constitute a breach of confidence. The information was provided to the Council from the Valuation Office and from the ratepayer themselves, and we consider that this information is provided in confidence. It is our view that disclosure of this information would constitute an actionable breach of confidence and so disclosure would also be unlawful under the Act. Section 41 of the Freedom of Information Act confers an absolute exemption on disclosure and there is no public interest test to apply.

This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 41(1) 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 41(1) Information Provided in Confidence

c) State why the exemption applies:

41.(1) Information is exempt information if — (a) it was obtained by the public authority from any other person (including another public authority), and, (b) the disclosure of the information to the public (otherwise than under this Act) by the public authority holding it would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that or any other person.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 24/25-039.

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.