



Further to your information request FOI/EIR 25/26-384, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

Former Vicarage property located on Church Lane, Wicken, Ely, Cambridgeshire, immediately adjacent to St Laurence Church.

Could you please provide the following information:

1. The dates when Council Tax or domestic rates liability for this property changed or was transferred, and any category of exemption that applied prior to its sale or disposal (for example, a "Parsonage House" or "Clergy Residence" exemption).
2. Confirmation (where permitted) of whether the liable party before disposal was the Diocese of Ely, the Parochial Church Council of St Laurence Wicken, the Church Commissioners, or another body.
3. Any available records or notes showing when waste collection or other Council-administered services were transferred from Church ownership or exemption status to private ownership.

Please note that I am not requesting any personal data relating to current private owners—only historical administrative details and dates.

Response:

1. The Vicarage, 5 Church Road, Wicken, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5XT, has been in the council tax listing since our digital records begun on 01.04.2013. In that time no discount or exemption has been given.
2. It is unknown who the owners of the property were before 13.08.2018
3. We do not hold this information. If the property was a domestic property, regardless of ownership, it would always have been eligible for a waste collection service.

The Non-Domestic Rates records go back to 1st April 2010 and have no record of this property on the database.

Review Request:

I would like to request an internal review, as my original questions have not been answered. Your response only covers digital Council Tax records from 2013 onwards and NDR records from 2010 onwards. It does not address the historical period I asked about (pre-2004), nor does it explain what happened to any earlier property records.

For clarity, please review the following:

1. Pre-2013 / pre-2010 records:
Please confirm whether any older Council Tax or rates records (paper files, microfiche, legacy databases) were searched. If these records were destroyed or transferred, please state when, under which retention schedule, and to which body.
2. Liable party before 13.08.2018:
You state it is "unknown" who the owner was before this date. Please confirm whether this means:
 - no such records ever existed; or
 - the records once existed but have been destroyed/removed.Council Tax accounts ordinarily record a liable party at all times.

3. Council Tax banding:
As you will know, a property cannot appear in the Council Tax list without a banding decision, billing history, and related documents. Therefore, I do not understand how ECDC can state that no information exists prior to 2013.
Please confirm exactly:
- when the band was first applied to this property,
 - what records were checked to verify this, and
 - if earlier banding/billing records were destroyed, the retention policy, destruction dates, and responsible officer.
4. Waste / service records:
Please confirm whether any historic domestic waste or collection route lists for Church Road, Wicken were checked, and if not held, what happened to them.

Historic valuation material:

Please confirm whether ECDC holds, or previously held, historic rating or valuation lists for Wicken (particularly for parsonage or benefice properties). If not held, please confirm where they were transferred.

Review Response:

We do hold limited data on liable parties from 1993 to 2013 which we have been able to locate and provide the answers.

1.
5 Church Road, Wicken, CB7 5XT has been in the council tax list since 01/04/1993 details of which can be found on the VOA website [Property information for 5, CHURCH ROAD, WICKEN, ELY, CAMBS, CB7 5XT - Check and challenge your Council Tax band - GOV.UK](#)
Older records are stored on a spreadsheet showing the net liability, total amounts paid, amount of transitional relief (01/04/1993 to 31/03/1996). This is due to the system start date being cut so that live records are only available from 01/04/2013.

Liable parties from 01/04/1993:

Liabe Person	From	To
ELY DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE	01/04/1993	26/08/2000
REDACTED	26/08/2000	11/12/2001
ELY DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE	11/12/2001	09/02/2004
REDACTED	09/02/2004	13/08/2013
REDACTED	13/08/2018	

As older records only report on net liability it is impossible to say if any discounts or exemptions were awarded prior to 01/04/2013.

2.
Liable party details have been recorded as follows up to Q1. Where a property is sold the Council Tax system overrides the previous owner. Details of previous ownership details can be found via the Land Registry public site for a fee [HM Land Registry - GOV.UK](#)

- 3.
- Please refer to the VOA website [Property information for 5, CHURCH ROAD, WICKEN, ELY, CAMBS, CB7 5XT - Check and challenge your Council Tax band - GOV.UK](#)
 - Please refer to Q1 further response
 - There are no earlier banding records as the same band F is effective from 01/04/1993

4.Domestic properties, regardless of ownership, would always have been eligible for a waste collection service. The Council does not hold information on historic routes.

Historic valuation material:

The Band F has applied since 01/04/1993 therefore there are no historic lists for number 5. The only property in Wicken that has ever been liable for Council Tax for a period is 5 Church Road, CB7 5XT

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 25/26-384.

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

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.