



Further to your information request FOI/EIR 23/24-483, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and subject to section 40(2) on personal data, could you provide me with the following current business rates account data:

Property Reference

SCat Code

Liable Party Name

Property Address

Rateable Value

Property Description

Billing or Correspondence address

Liability Start Date

Current entitlement to any Reliefs or Discounts (do not include details of any empty property reliefs)

Start date of the entitlement to any current reliefs or discounts

Please provide these data as machine-readable as either a CSV or Microsoft Excel file.

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 \(ico.org.uk\)](https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/ico-articles/2023/03/23/microsoft-word-dn-for-website)) and we 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 23/24-483.

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.