

Re: Request for Information

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which we received on 15/06/18.

I can confirm that Eastleigh Borough Council does hold the information requested.

We wish to obtain the information, from the Council, relating to unclaimed business rate credit balances.

The Council considers the information to be exempt under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. This is because the information is already in the public domain and is reasonably accessible to you by other means such as our website: <https://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/business/business-rates/find-out-more-about-business-rates/business-rates-data>

This information will be published quarterly, therefore any request for information in between the time frame will be exempted under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act states that information which are intended for future publication are exempt from disclosure. This is a qualified exemption.

A qualified exemption means that a decision is made in light of the public interest in maintaining the exemption being weighed against the public interest in disclosure.

Public interest in disclosure

- As a public body it is Eastleigh Borough Council's duty to be transparent and accountable for its decisions
- It is Eastleigh Borough Council's duty to comply with the principles of the FOIA and relay its benefits of transparency

Public interest in applying the exemption

- The information is going to be published to the public quarterly as mentioned and there is no requirement to disclose the information to one individual before the appropriate time.

Therefore it is considered that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs that of the public interest in the disclosure of the information.

If you would like further information on Freedom of Information requests and what we publish, please visit our website:

<https://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/council/open-data>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further enquiries regarding your request.

If you wish to make a request for internal review with regards to your information request please contact:

Mr Ian Austin
Solicitor- Legal Services Manager
Eastleigh House
Upper Market Street
Hampshire
SO50 9YN
Fax: 023 8064 3843
Email: ian.Austin@eastleigh.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the way in which your complaint is dealt with then you may apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The contact details for the Information Commissioner are:

The Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF