

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) Decision notice

Date: 12 November 2024

Public Authority: London Borough of Croydon

Address: Bernard Weatherill House
8 Mint Walk
Croydon
CR0 1EA

Request:

The complainant requested the following information from the London Borough of Croydon on 12 July 2024:

"I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The main purpose of this request is to gather data on vacant council properties in the United Kingdom.

For clarification, this includes all forms of social housing in the ward of the council, including Housing Association. Specifically, I am seeking information on the following:

Number of vacant homes:

- The number of vacant council properties
- The number of vacant Housing Association properties

Reason for vacancy:

- Breakdown of reasons why said social housing properties are vacant
- [E.g. awaiting repairs, legal issues, not meeting the Decent Homes Standard, etc.]

Waiting list size:

- How many residents are currently on the waiting list for social housing

Waiting list length:

- The average length of the waiting list for a council property
- The average length of the waiting list for a Housing Association property"

Commissioner's Decision:

A public authority will breach section 10 of FOIA if it fails to respond to a request within 20 working days. Based on evidence available to the Commissioner, by the date of this notice the public authority has not issued a substantive response to this request. Therefore the Commissioner finds a breach of section 10.

Steps:

The public authority must provide a substantive response to the request in accordance with its obligations under FOIA.

The public authority must take this step within 30 calendar days of the date of this decision notice. Failure to comply may result in the Commissioner making written certification of this fact to the High Court pursuant to section 54 of FOIA and may be dealt with as a contempt of court.

Right of Appeal:

Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)
GRC & GRP Tribunals
PO Box 9300
LEICESTER
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0203 936 8963
Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: grc@justice.gov.uk

Website: www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber

Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 35 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

**Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF**