

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 031617  
Date            03 March 2016

### *Empty Homes*

**Request:**

I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

The DCLG spreadsheet in [this publication](#) shows the number of empty homes brought back into use using the CTB Oct 14 to Oct 15. I'm attaching the relevant spreadsheet for clarity.

1. For all of these empty homes, please provide the street and the first half of the postcode in which it is located (e.g. RH1, M4). If you believe that
2. What exactly does 'brought back into use' mean?
3. In what time period were these properties brought back into use?

The figures in respect of empty homes are taken from a statistical data form which the council completes. This return is called the CTB1 or Calculation of Taxbase which captures council tax information on the first Monday of October each year. The data is a snapshot in time and is not concerned with how or when changes occurred.

The information for New Homes bonus compares data which was submitted in October 2014 with that for October 2015.

The number of empty homes is based on the number of properties which have been empty and unoccupied for more than 6 months on the first Monday in October

2014 1,493 properties had been empty for more than 6 months  
2015 1,518 properties had been empty for more than 6 months  
Difference - 25 properties

The figures show that there were in fact 25 more empty properties in Wolverhampton on the first Monday of October 2015 than on the same day in 2014.

1. For all of these empty homes, please provide the street and the first half of the postcode in which it is located (e.g. RH1, M4). If you believe that?  
The data is a comparison of empty property totals at two points in time and there will be many properties which have either become empty or been occupied since the previous year. It is therefore not possible to provide details of the 25 properties concerned.

2. What exactly does 'brought back into use' mean?  
In this context the term is used to describe the difference in the total number of empty properties at two points in time.  
As the phrase is taken from a DCLG publication, you may wish to contact them direct for any further clarification.
3. In what time period were these properties brought back into use?  
The calculation of new homes bonus is based on the data at two single points in time the first Monday of October 2014 and October 2015