



Reference: FOI3552

Request:

1. As of 26th February 2021 (or the most recently available date), please could you tell me how many private and council homes have been vacant in your authority for the following numbers of financial years*:
 - a. Less than one year (i.e. current financial year)
 - b. One year
 - c. Two years
 - d. Three years
 - e. Four years
 - f. Five years
 - g. Six years
 - h. Seven years
 - i. Eight years
 - j. Nine years
 - k. Ten years
 - l. 11 - 19 years
 - m. 20 or more years

*Please treat 'years' as financial years. If a home has been listed as empty within the current financial year, I would expect this to be listed as 'less than one year'. Please could you break this information down by: Column a) The 'number of years' Column b) 'Private' or 'council' home - a separate count for private, and council, if available Column c) The number of vacant homes

2. For the last five financial years (2016/2017 - 2020/2021), please can you tell me how many homes that had been vacant for two or more years were demolished in your authority?

Please could you break this information down by: Column a) The financial year Column b) The number of homes demolished

3. For the last five financial years (2016/2017 - 2020/2021), please can you tell me how many reports related to squatting in a council-owned vacant property you have received?

Please could you break this information down by: Column a) The financial year Column b) The number of reports related to squatting

4. For the last five financial years (2016/2017 - 2020/2021) how much money has your council raised from charging extra council tax on homes that have been vacant for two or more years?

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Please could you break this information down by: Column a) The year Column b) The amount raised via council tax paid on vacant dwellings If time or cost restraints are an issue with this request, please can you prioritise the questions in this order: 1, 2, 3, 4.

Response:

1. Column a) and Column c):

1year – 440

2years - 386

3years - 120

4years - 56

5years - 35

6years - 36

7years - 29

8years - 24

9years - 12

10years – 12

11 to 19years - 47

20+years - 9

The request for Column b and all of question 2 are refused under section 12 (1) as the cost of complying with either parts would exceed the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

For 1. Column b) The Authority would have to manually check each of the 1206 properties to determine whether they were council owned or not and for Question 2. The Authority would have to manually check 952 properties that have been ended in the period requested to determine whether they were demolished or whether they were split, merged or amended.

3. Number of recorded cases of Squatting in NTC properties:

- 2016-17 = 3
- 2017-18 = 7

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- 2018-19 = 1
- 2019-20 = 0
- 2020-21 = 1

4. £455,564.09

The Council Tax premiums were implemented in North Tyneside from 1 April 2020 so this sum is the total to date.

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Date: 31/3/21

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