



Reference: FOI0722

**Request:**

Under the Freedom of Information Act of 2000, could you please provide me with the most up-to-date list of all business (non-residential) property rates data for your local authority that currently hold a credit on their account, and including the following fields:

(a) Addresses of all commercial properties.

(b) The names and addresses of the ratepayer of the property referred to in (a) if they are NOT a sole trader or individual.

(c) The amount by which the account is in credit

(d) The rating year that the credit arose

Could you also please confirm the date that the data was generated from your system.

I appreciate that properties owned / rented by individuals are personal information and such personal data (i.e. the Firm's Trading Name) would be excluded from my request in terms of Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In such cases, please provide the remaining information with the Firm's Trading Name either blank or listed as 'individual'.

**Response:**

With regards to a) and b) your request is refused under section 21, information accessible to the applicant by other means, of the Freedom of Information Act. The reason for this is that this information is published on a quarterly basis at the following link: <http://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/486/business-rate-accounts-data>. This data was last updated on 1 November 2018 and will be updated again in February 2019.

With regards to c) and d) your request is refused under Section 31 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The reason for this is that there is a public interest in ensuring that monies from the public purse, such as rebates on business rates accounts, are not fraudulently claimed and also a public interest in not making it easier for fraud to be committed.

For further information please see the Information Commissioner's Decision notices at the following links

<https://ico.org.uk/media/action-weve-taken/decision-notices/2017/2013485/fs50619844.pdf> and

<https://ico.org.uk/media/action-weve-taken/decision-notices/2018/2173119/fs50671834.pdf>

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