



North Tyneside Council

Reference: FOI0797

Request:

I would like to obtain recent information, from the Council, relating to unclaimed business rate credit balances. Please also indicate when requested information (spreadsheet or website) has been updated.

I am aware that all Billing Authorities hold on account sums of money that are due to be returned to ratepayers and for a variety of reasons have not been repaid and maybe considered untraceable by the Council.

I therefore request a breakdown of credit balances accrued since your earliest records, for the amounts owing to all incorporated companies within the authorities billing area including the following information:

- A) The name of each business in respect of which non-domestic rate credit balances remain payable.
- B) The value of over payment in each case which remains unclaimed.
- C) The years(s) in which over payment was made and the hereditament address.
- D) The name of each business in respect of which non-domestic rate credit balances has been written back on to the NDR account.
- E) The value of write back in each case which remains unclaimed.
- F) The years(s) in which write back was made (if available) and the hereditament address that the write back relates to.

Response:

Your request is refused under Section 31 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and in accordance with the ICO decision concerning Wandsworth Council 06th February 2018. 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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