

(CCC) Empty Properties

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?

FOI Ref

Response sent

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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.

Preferred format of your response: machine-readable / Microsoft Excel / Google Sheets

Response:

We have provided all the information available to us through the relevant databases in the City Council, in consultation with the Council Tax and City Homes departments.

Please see attached excel spreadsheet.

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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' – please see 'Total empty properties' tab on attached spreadsheet

Column b) 'Private' or 'council' home - a separate count for private, and council, if available – not available – dwellings are not labelled as 'private' or 'council' count is total for each year

Column c) The number of vacant homes – please see 'Total empty properties' tab on attached spreadsheet

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 – please see 'Council empties weeks' tab on

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attached spreadsheet

Column b) The number of homes demolished – please see ‘Councils empties weeks’ tab on attached spreadsheet

Please note, the Council does not hold information on demolition of private property that has been vacant and we are advised by the Valuation Office Agency that details of occupied/empty status of properties prior to demolition is not held

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

There is no information available on the data base which identifies the number of properties that have been squatted in. This is a very unusual occurrence and if there has been an incidence of squatting it would be recorded on the file for the individual property and it would not appear on our data records. There have been fewer than 5 incidences of squatting in Council properties over the past 10 years.

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?

Please could you break this information down by:

Column a) The year – please see ‘Premium CT income’ tab on the attached spreadsheet

Column b) The amount raised via council tax paid on vacant dwellings – please see ‘Premium CT income’ tab on the attached spreadsheet

Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@cambridge.gov.uk