FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 669/19

Dear Sir/Madam

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is provided below.

Request / Response:

1. Can the council confirm their current number of Long Term Empty Properties as of the 8th May (those domestic properties which have been empty for six months or older)

Answer:
226

2. What work is the council currently undertaking or planning to undertake around reducing their long term empty properties in 2019?

Answer:
Rutland County Council’s Empty Homes Officer negotiates with owners of empty properties, persuading them to bring the properties back into use. A three stage escalating letter system is used for contacting owners. Rutland County Council’s Empty Homes Officer will respond to any complaints emanating from an empty property.

3. During 2018 did you undertake any work around reducing your Long Term Empty Properties. If you did was this done using internal resource or a third party?

Answer:
Please see our response to Question 2. The Rutland County Council Empty Homes activities are provided by Peterborough City Council under a shared services agreement.

4. If yes is the answer to question three, did the council review every single long term property?

Answer:
No, not every long term empty property was reviewed. Reviews of long term empty properties are guided by Rutland County Council’s Housing Strategy Review Group and complaints.

5. Does the reduction of empty homes in the council area form part of your Housing strategy?

Answer:
Yes
6. Does the council have a budget in place to help support the reduction of empty properties?

Answer: No

7. How much did the council spend on temporary accommodation during 2018?

Answer: £20,343

8. Does the council offer financial support /loans to Long Term Empty property owners to help them bring properties back into use.

Answer: No

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You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water lane
Wilmslow, Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545700

Yours faithfully

FOI Administrator
Business Support Team
Rutland County Council