



# South Tyneside Council

Date: 28th November 2016

Our Ref: FOI 16 17330

Lee Jefferson  
[request-364055-c71f7463@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-364055-c71f7463@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Mr Jefferson

## Freedom of Information Request

I refer to your Freedom of Information Request received on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and additional clarification received on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016. I apologise for the delay in providing the information

Your request asked for the following information:

### Your Request

Please kindly provide a list of council-run buildings (including Libraries, Day Care Centres, Community Centres, Schools and Administrative bases) which your Council has had to close since 2010. Please provide the name of the buildings and the postcodes of the buildings.

Such closures would include those where people have to seek the same type of service from a different location\* which already exists (or maybe there is no alternative available). \* If there are any scenarios where a service provision is not closed but relocated across the road to another council building I don't require information on that.

I require the list to include buildings closed and disposed plus buildings that are re-let following service closures.

I'm only interested however in the buildings in which you provided a service that you were forced to close due to Government cuts to your budget making it no longer financially viable for you to keep such buildings open.

The reason why I require this information is to get a picture of the effect of any Government cuts to council budgets which in turn is forcing councils to find ways to make savings.

In order to assist the request here is the relevant information from other councils.

Please note however I require the postcode besides the name of the buildings if possible:

Example 1 Lancashire Council (pdf file) <http://freepdfhosting.com/4f28e56539.pdf>

Example 2 Lincolnshire Council (excel file) <https://d.pr/14FZr>

Example 3 Oxfordshire Council (pdf file) <http://freepdfhosting.com/fded63aff2.pdf>

Example 4 Herefordshire Council (pdf file) <http://freepdfhosting.com/17818cf345.pdf>

Example 5 Suffolk Council (excel file) <https://d.pr/117FU>

Example 6 Milton Keynes Council (pdf file) <http://freepdfhosting.com/6c6384a655.pdf>

Example 7 Dorset Council (excel file) <https://d.pr/1dQAS>

Additional clarification received on 28th October

I require the list to include buildings closed and disposed plus buildings that are re-let following service closures. If there is a scenario where the building is closed but still under council ownership then please include that in the list.

The primary reason I require this information is to get a picture of the effect of any Government cuts to council budgets which in turn is forcing councils to find ways to make savings. If you can't be sure of the reason for closure then kindly provide the information anyway and indicate what is known about the reason for closure (if known).

### **Council's Response**

We can confirm the following information with regards your request above.

**We are unable to provide the information you have requested.**

**Our property strategy which we embarked on in January 2010 takes into account service need (Demand) and the costs, condition, utilisation and suitability (Supply) of each building.**

**No building closure has been as a direct result of budget cuts, but a planned, prudent and pragmatic approach to identify those buildings in which to invest and those building declared surplus, measured against both the supply and demand side criteria.**

### **Copyright Procedure**

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use this information for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and news reporting. Any other re-use of this information, for example commercial publication requires the permission of the Council as the Copyright holder. All re-use requests will be treated under the Re-Use of Public Information Regulation 2006.

### **Internal Review Procedure**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of this enquiry you can invoke the Council's internal review procedures to ask for an independent review of your request. All such

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Westoe Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE33 2RL

requests must be sent to us within 4 weeks and must clearly state in writing your reference number and your reasons for your request for internal review.

The Information Governance Team can be contacted at the following address:  
Information Governance Team, Town Hall and Civic Buildings, Westoe Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE33 2RL.

Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

Should you remain dissatisfied with the final outcome of the internal review process you can write to the Information Commissioner to ask for an independent review. The Information Commissioner is the Government's Independent Body responsible for overseeing the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Please do note the ICO will only review cases that have exhausted the Council's internal review procedures. All correspondence to the ICO must quote the Council's reference number and your reasons for your appeal.

The ICO's contact details are as follows: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF. More information can be found on the ICO's website at [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk).

If you have any further queries about this matter then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

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