

Dear Lee Jefferson

Subject : Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Thank you for your request for information dated 17/10/2016, which was received by North Ayrshire Council on 17/10/2016.

We have now completed our research for the information you request and the responses to the questions submitted are listed below.

North Ayrshire Council has not been forced to close any buildings as a direct result of Government cuts since 2010.

North Ayrshire Council has a duty to secure Best Value – a balance between efficiency, effectiveness and economy – and therefore pursues a policy of good asset management practice across its operational estate. Ongoing reviews of the council's buildings ensure that the council's estate is used efficiently and effectively to meet the changing service delivery requirements in each of its Localities and to improve customer access to council services. A number of projects have resulted in building closures where the services have been relocated to a new location as a result of new build projects or refurbishment of existing assets in suitable locations. Those assets which have been freed up have either been reused for service delivery as part of the ongoing review of the use of our assets, leased to third parties or disposed of. In addition, where possible the council is seeking to release assets through lease breaks or at natural expiry of any lease term where assets are leased in for operational purposes.

For example, a number of single service offices in Saltcoats (e.g. housing office, registration office, customer service office) were closed and the services are now provided from the newly refurbished multi-functional Saltcoats Townhall. This also delivered against the Council's aim to support our local town centres through greater footfall, by centralising employees to town centres.

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