

FOI number: **HBC\_FOI\_20200545**  
Date FOI Received: **16/09/2020**  
Department: **Council Tax**  
Title: **Council tax on vacant dwellings and second homes**  
Description: **Council tax on vacant dwellings and second homes**

**Request: (As Redacted sent by requestor)**

Can you please provide the information below separately for each of these financial years: 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-end of August 2020.

Can you please specify:

1. The number of these properties that were charged a premium on their council tax
2. The amount of extra revenue earned from any premiums applied (for example, if there were 500 homes that each paid an extra £1,000 a month on top of their usual council tax rate, the total extra revenue would be £5,000)

If possible within the cost limit can I also have:

3. The number of these properties in your local authority area

If possible within the cost limit, can you also break down the information above by the type of vacant property/second home classification you use. For example, "long term empty properties", "second homes", "uninhabitable property", "unoccupied and unfurnished properties", "unoccupied and furnished property", etc.

**Response: (Response as Redacted sent by service)**

Year	Number of Properties being charged a levy	Average band D
2016/17	60	£1,531.64
2017/18	76	£1,594.36
2018/19	113	£1,686.40
2019/20	127	£1,755.19
2020/21	147 +27 on 5 year Levy (200%)	£1,824.93

We do not hold the information regarding specifically how much additional debt this represents. However, I have provided the average band D level for each year which should give you a pretty good approximation.

These premiums are charged on Long Term empty properties only that have been empty for over two years.

If you have any queries about the processing of your request then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information explaining the Council's process for responding to information requests together with a complaints/appeals procedure is available in our reception or via our website at:

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Access-to-Information.aspx>

The Information Commissioner oversees the application of the Freedom of Information Act. You may contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office  
Wycliffe House, Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF  
Telephone: 01625 545700  
Website: [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Please include the above reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

Thank you for your request.

Kind regards  
Information Services

**Information Services**

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