Request details - FOI 5048

On the subject of Non-Domestic Rates & Rates Relief for Valuation Period 2010-2015 for all property description types and all types of relief (eg. Small Business Rate Relief, Mandatory Rate Relief for Charities - list is not exhaustive) and inclusive of all rateable values.

I would like each 'Billing Authority' (e.g. Gloucester City Council) to send me, by electronic copy where data can be manipulated (i.e. not read only):

Column 1. Billing authority reference number/Property Reference.

Column 2. Has each unique Property Reference 'APPLIED' for Rates Relief in the current 2010-2015 Valuation Period? Either a date of application or simply Yes or No is sufficient.

Column 3. Where cells in column 2 = Y, would this column represent whether Relief was 'GRANTED' or 'REJECTED'

Column 4. Was a Rates Relief application made by this BA reference in the 2005-2010 valuation period? Yes or No (or date).The most up-to-date information would be appreciated.

Response details– FOI 5048

I am writing in respect of your recent enquiry for information regarding non domestic rates and rates relief for the valuation period 2010-2015 held by the Authority under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please find herewith the following:

The attached spread sheet* lists all non-domestic limited companies that have been awarded one or more of the following rates relief;

- Small Business Rates Relief (reviewed during each rating period)
- Empty Property Rates Relief (no statutory requirement to review but Birmingham City Council undertake periodic checks)
- Discretionary Rate Relief (reviewed every 3 years)
- Mandatory Rate Relief for charities (reviewed every 3 years)
- Hardship Relief (relief is only awarded annually to 31 march)

Our working practices do not allow us to identify when an application for relief has been reviewed without manual intervention. With the volume of cases receiving some form of relief this would require a charge for fees. This is because it is estimated that it would take up to 18 hours to extract the required data, this being the limit for Freedom of Intervention requests.

The cases listed on the spread sheet therefore contain some properties that have been receiving some form of relief since 1997. They would have been subjected to the various reviews throughout the years.

If you wish to discuss the content of this response you should contact a member of the team on telephone number 0121 303 4876 quoting our reference number above. Should you wish to have the review dates extracted then you should notify the team and a fees notice will be issued to you. The work would not be undertaken until you have paid the required figure.

*Due to the volume of documents contained within this response, it has not been possible to publish all the documents on our website. If you require further information on this, please contact the Corporate Information Governance Team quoting the request reference number.

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