



**Ministry  
of Defence**

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Our Ref: FOI2015/09232

18 November 2015

Dear Mr Grant:

Thank you for your email of 21 October 2015 requesting the following information:

*"I seek access to data detailing all currently empty government properties, if any, held by the Ministry of Defence in Greater London. I would like a spreadsheet listing the:*

1. Size of the property in square metres, and
2. Address

*as well as, if possible, details on how long the property has been empty.*

*I would prefer to receive this information electronically, in the form of a spreadsheet (Excel), rather than a pdf of word document."*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. The address and size of each individual property in square metres is not held by MOD as the information is managed by a third party on the department's behalf. I am able to supply the number of properties by borough (Table 1), the normal square metres of each relevant property type (Table 2) and the length of time properties have been vacant (Annex A).

**Table 1 Empty Properties by Type and Borough**

Borough	Property Type	Empty Properties
Camden Borough Council	5	2
London Borough of Barnet	4	4
	5	4
	B	13
	C	8
	D	1
Merton Borough Council	D	5
Royal Borough of Greenwich	4	2

	5	2
	B	3
	C	8
	D	19
Wandsworth Borough Council	4	2
	5	1
	B	1
	C	1
Westminster City Council	2	1
	C	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>79</b>

**Table 2 The normal size of each type of property**

<b>Property Type</b>	<b>Normal square metres of property type</b>
Type 2	210 square metres
Type 4	137 square metres
Type 5	117 square metres
Type B	86 square metres
Type C	95 square metres
Type D	120 square metres

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that properties can be unoccupied for a number of reasons. These include:

- The MOD retains a margin of unoccupied properties in the short term to ensure they are available when service personnel apply for accommodation.
- A number of properties, which could otherwise be disposed of, are being retained pending the outcome of discussions on the future size of the Defence Estate.
- There may be a gap between allocation to, and occupation by, a service family.
- When the MOD no longer requires leased properties the lease is terminated and the properties are handed back to Annington Homes Ltd. Some properties will be awaiting completion of that process.
- A number of properties are affected by dilapidations and await repair or disposal.
- The MOD also has empty properties at Old War Office, Whitehall, London SW1A 2EU (1 hectare) and Islington TAC at Parkhurst Road, Islington, N7 0LP (0.7 hectares). Both of these properties are in the process of being sold.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>

Yours sincerely,

DIO Secretariat