

Trust Headquarters
Russells Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - Ref: FOI/010906

With reference to your FOI request that was received on 23/06/2011 in connection with 'Empty dwellings owned by the Trust'.

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is enclosed.

If you have any queries or concerns then please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number '**FOI/010906**' in any future communications related to this FOI request.

Further information about your rights is also available from the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
Fax: 01625 524510
www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Manager
Room 34a, First Floor, Esk House, Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley, DY1 2HQ
Email: FOI@dgh.nhs.uk

Your request was for:

How many empty dwellings owned by your NHS Trust are currently empty? How many of these have been empty longer than 12 months?

The Trust currently has six empty properties to be sold at a public auction on the 11th August 2011.

What is the greatest length of time a dwelling owned by your department has been, and is currently still, empty?
What is the address of this property?

The six properties have been empty for longer than 12 months. The houses would have been sold previously but the sale fell through when the “developer” pulled out of the sale.

The properties are located in the Amblecote, Stourbridge area.

How much did your department spend on maintenance and on-going security for empty dwellings in the last financial year?

The only expenditure the Trust has spent on the properties in the last financial year is for grass cutting and that equates to £972.

What specific measures do you use to safeguard empty dwellings against risks (such as squatting)?

The Trust has not taken any specific measures relating to security or squatters, other than making sure the houses are securely locked.

How much has it cost, in the last financial year, to secure empty dwellings owned by the NHS Trust from risks (such as squatters)?

Not applicable. The Trust has not taken any specific measures relating to security or squatters, other than making sure the houses are securely locked.

How many empty dwellings that were owned by your NHS Trust have been transferred to another organisation under your control within the last two years?

The Trust has sold twelve other properties over the period stated.