

From: Owen Boswarva <owen.boswarva@gmail.com>

Date: 8 May 2017 at 19:38

Subject: RoPSIR request for licence to re-use information in Local Reference Rent (LRR) tables

To: helpdesk.lha@voa.gsi.gov.uk

Hello,

The Valuation Office Agency publishes Local Reference Rent (LRR) tables each month on GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-reference-rents-levels-collection>

According to information at the above link the LRR tables "are subject to Crown copyright. They may be reproduced without formal permission or charge for personal or in-house use only."

I would like to request, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015, permission to re-use the information in the LRR tables for the purpose of combining that information with data from existing open public datasets and making the outputs available to others in a re-usable electronic form under an open licence. I therefore request that VOA grants permission to re-use the information for this purpose under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3 (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>). Given my intended use, any more restrictive licensing terms would be likely to "unnecessarily restrict" the way in which the information can be re-used, contrary to RoPSIR regulation 12.

This re-use request applies to all published LRR tables, including those for months prior to October 2014 archived at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20141002130923/http://www.voa.gov.uk/corporate/publications/statisticsCentralLocalRating.html>

Many thanks for your attention to this re-use request.

Best regards,

Owen Boswarva



Valuation Office
Agency

Liz Perry
Information Law and Disclosure

Valuation Office Agency
Wingate House
93 -107 Shaftesbury Avenue
London
W1D 5BU

To: Owen Boswarva

Email: owen.boswarva@gmail.com

Email: foi@voa.gsi.gov.uk

Our Reference: 11785855.1/CEO

Date: 14 July 2017

Dear Mr Boswarva

Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015
VOA ref: 11785855.1/CEO

Thank you for your request for licence to re-use information in the Local Reference Rent (LRR) tables made on 8 May 2017 under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 (RPSI).

Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding.

Your request for Information under the RPSI

The Valuation Office Agency publishes Local Reference Rent (LRR) tables each month on GOV.UK:

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Response to your request:

The use of the LRR tables appearing on the VOA website is currently restricted to “personal or in-house use only” unless formal permission is granted. I have considered your request for re-use and am satisfied that this fulfils the requirements of the Open Government License v3. I therefore accede to your request under RPSI and grant use of the LRR tables on the VOA site under the following terms:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

Any enquiries regarding the use and re-use of information held by The National Archives in “Webarchive” should be directed to psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

If you are dissatisfied with this reply you may submit a complaint by email to: foi@voa.gsi.gov.uk

Complaints must:

- be in writing (email is acceptable)
- state the nature of the complaint – which sections of the 2015 Regulations are at issue and how
- explain what the complainant would like the Valuation Office Agency to do in order to resolve the complaint
- provide the complainant’s full contact details

Alternatively, you may write to:

Valuation Office Agency
Information Law and Disclosure Team
Head Office
6th Floor, Wingate House
93/107 Shaftesbury Avenue
London
W1D 5BU

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Valuation Office Agency. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Liz Perry

Liz Perry

Liz Perry | Team Leader | Information Law and Disclosure (ILD) | Valuation Office Agency (VOA)

6th floor | Wingate House | 93/107 Shaftesbury Avenue | London | W1D 5BU

Telephone: +44 [REDACTED] | Mobile: +44 [REDACTED] |

Email: [REDACTED]

From: Owen Boswarva <owen.boswarva@gmail.com>
Date: 17 July 2017 at 15:48
Subject: Re: VOA RPSI Response
To: Freedom Of Information <foi@voa.gsi.gov.uk>

Dear Ms Perry,

Thank you for your email of 14 July 2017 and for confirming that I may re-use the information in the Local Reference Rent (LRR) tables for October 2014 onward under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.

I have now located an alternative URL for an archived version of earlier LRR tables (March 2009 through September 2014) that were published on the old VOA website subject to a copyright notice that permitted re-use under the terms of the Open Government Licence. I believe that provides me (and other users) with sufficient basis to re-use those earlier tables under the OGL without seeking further permission.

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20141205010142/http://www.voa.gov.uk/corporate//Publications/residential.html>

I am somewhat confused by your statement that the current re-use restriction on the VOA website "fulfils the requirements of the Open Government License v3". The requirement to seek formal permission is clearly incompatible with the OGL. I urge VOA to remove that restriction from the website, so that the OGL will apply to the LRR tables by default. If VOA has no objection to allowing my re-use under the OGL I cannot see why other users should be treated differently, particularly given that older LRR tables were subject to the OGL when published on the old VOA website.

I must also disagree that enquiries regarding the use and re-use of VOA information held by National Archives in "Webarchive" should be directed to National Archives. I believe in this case the older LRR tables are still information held by VOA for purposes of the PSI regulations. The availability of a publicly archived copy of those tables is relevant to my access, but not to VOA's responsibility for licensing for re-use. This is a key point because the PSI regulations do not apply to archives in the same way as to other public bodies. It also seems unlikely that National Archives will have the necessary contextual information on creation and ownership of the tables to make decisions on licensing.

Thank you again for your assistance with my re-use request.

Best regards,

Owen Boswarva