

RE: MGLA171115-9472 Request for information under the freedom of information act.

Mayor of London (mayor@london.gov.uk)

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 16 November. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked:

Please will you kindly tell me (a) how many empty public buildings are under your control & (b) how many of them will you open up for the homeless to use this winter?

Our response to your request is as follows:

We currently have 11 empty properties within the portfolio that are directly under GLA control, however, most of these are unsuitable for temporary housing due to their physical conditions (asbestos, lack of facilities, etc) or location.

The Mayor is very concerned about rough sleeping in extreme weather, so is grant funding a pan-London rough sleeping Severe Weather Emergency protocol (SWEP) service, which is additional provision for the winter and for periods of extreme weather. The model allows for accommodation to be scaled up according to demand for people who are sleeping rough when the provision is triggered.

The GLA annually collates information from London boroughs regarding their emergency weather plans and promotes the good practice guide and protocols developed by Homeless Link and Lambeth (<http://www.homeless.org.uk/our-work/resources/guidance-on-severe-weather-emergency-protocol-swep-and-extended-weather-provision>). By using boroughs' local information, we aim to effectively plan the need for pan-London provision this winter.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference at the top of this email.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Housing and Land

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/gla/governing-organisation/freedom-information>.