



Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board

Report to: Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board

Meeting on: 19 August 2016

Subject: Policy on Re-use of Information Procedures and Asset List for Councils and Joint Boards

Author: Depute Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer

1.0 Introduction

The attached policy is presented for Board approval, its purpose is to ensure stakeholders are aware of what information held by the Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer can be re-used by other stakeholders. This forms part of the ongoing work to ensure the Board complies with all current legislation.

2.0 Recommendation

The Board approves this report.

NOTE Attachment: Policy on Re-use of Information Procedures and Asset List for Councils and Joint Boards

Kate Crawford
Depute Assessor & ERO
12.08.2016

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RENFREWSHIRE VALUATION JOINT BOARD



RE-USE OF PUBLIC SECTOR INFORMATION PROCEDURES AND ASSET LIST

Title	Re-use of Public Sector Information Procedures and Asset List
Author	Kate Crawford, Depute Assessor & ERO
Approved By	Management Team
Date of Approval	July 2016
Reviewer	Kate Crawford
Review Date	As required

Review History

Review No.	Details	Release Date

Re-use of Public Sector Information Procedures

1.0 General

The Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 provide a public right to re-use information that public sector bodies must produce, hold, collect or disseminate within their **'public task'**.

The Information Commissioner has confirmed that the Assessor, being a separate statutory appointment of the valuation authority, is not a Public Sector Body for the purposes of the Regulations. The same conclusion can be drawn in respect of the Electoral Registration Officer.

It is quite clear, however, that Joint Boards are Public Sector Bodies for the purposes of the Regulations and these procedures are intended to ensure that Renfrewshire-vjb VJB ("the Joint Board") complies with the Regulations.

The business of the Valuation Joint Board falls into five main categories, Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rating, Electoral Registration, IT and other Business Support Services (such as personnel, finance etc), though, as above, Valuation Rolls, Council Tax Valuation Lists, Electoral Registers and their supporting data will not be covered.

These Procedures and the Information Asset List are designed to provide details of the range of information that the Joint Board routinely publish grouped within these main business classifications. It also provides advice on how to make a request for the re-use of our information, whether it is available free or if there is a charge for the information and the rights of appeal that any dissatisfied enquirer has under the Regulations.

The work of Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board is carried out in one location, Paisley, and these Procedures apply to that site.

1.1 'Public Task'

The Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board was established as part of the 1996 re-organisation of local government in terms of The Valuation Joint Boards (Scotland) Order 1995 and is charged with providing the Assessor with the resources required to perform his statutory functions under the Valuation Acts in the three valuation authorities Renfrewshire Council, East Renfrewshire Council and Inverclyde Council. Through the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) the Joint Board also discharges the function of Electoral Registration in the same three Council areas.

Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board is a body in its own right, separate from the Councils, and comprising sixteen members, elected councillors from each of the three authorities. It is responsible for the appointment of the Assessor and the ERO.

Since the enactment of the Lands Valuation (Scotland) Act 1854, Assessors have been responsible for the valuation of all lands and heritages for local taxation purposes within their respective valuation areas. Currently all rateable properties are shown in the Valuation Roll and domestic subjects are contained within the Council Tax List. These documents form the basis for levying non-domestic rates (Valuation Roll) and Council Tax (Council Tax Valuation Lists).

The ERO is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of the Register of Electors which is essential for all Parliamentary and Local Government Elections and referenda.

2.0 Accessing Information and Data

Where published, information will normally be available through the routes described below.

Online:

Most published information is available to download from our website (www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk), or on the Scottish Assessors website (www.saa.gov.uk).

By e-mail:

If the information you seek is listed in our Information Asset List but is not published on our website, we can send it to you by email, wherever possible. When requesting information from us (assessor@renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk), please provide a telephone number so that, if necessary, we can telephone you to clarify your request.

By post:

Most published information will normally be available in paper copy form. Please address your request to:

Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board
c/o Assessor & ERO
The Robertson Centre
16 Glasgow Road
Paisley
PA1 3QF

2.1 Making a request for Re-use of Information

In making a request for re-use of public sector information requesters must ensure that the request:-

1. Is in writing, to the above address,
2. States the name of the applicant and provides an address for correspondence,
3. Specifies the documents or information requested, and
4. States the purpose for which the document is to be reused

All requests will be considered by the Assessor & ERO or the Depute Assessor & ERO on behalf of the VJB.

2.2 Response to requests

Where a request is received, Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board will respond to the request promptly and within 20 working days beginning with the date the request is received. The options available to the Joint Board in response to the request are either to refuse the request, to make the document available to the applicant or to impose conditions on what re-use can be permitted.

2.2.1 Information within scope

Examples of information held by the Joint Board that fall within the scope of a request for reuse of public sector information are:

- Some documents and information contained within our Publication Scheme(s)
- Policy documents
- Primary and secondary legislation

Where a request is received for information which is not currently published or readily available, it will be treated as a Freedom of Information request and the future publication of the data will be considered.

2.2.2 Information out with scope

Examples of information held by the Joint Board that fall out with the scope of a request for reuse of public sector information are:

- Information held by the Joint Board which is out with the scope of its public task
- Information that is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
- Information that contains personal data
- Information in which the relevant copyright is owned or controlled by a different person or organisation (third party copyright)
- Information which is within the statutory control of, or is created by, the Assessor (Including Valuation Rolls and Council Tax Valuation Lists)
- Information which is within the statutory control of, or is created by, the Electoral Registration Officer (Including the Electoral Register)

2.2.3 Our Charging Policy

Unless otherwise stated in the following Asset List, most information is available from us free of charge where it can be downloaded from our website or where it can be sent electronically by email. Note, however, that the charging for some documents is subject to separate statutory provision and, where that is the case, the Joint Board will charge for information in accordance with that alternative provision.

We also reserve the right to impose charges for providing information in paper copy or on computer disc. Charges will reflect the actual costs of reproduction and postage to the authority, as set out below.

In the event that a charge is to be levied, you will be advised of the charge and how it has been calculated. Information will not be provided to you until payment has been received.

Reproduction costs:

Where charges are applied, photocopied information will be charged at a standard rate of 10p per A4 side of paper (black and white copy) and 30p per A4 side of paper (colour copy).

Computer discs will be charged at the rate of £1.00 per CD-Rom.

Postage cost:

We will pass on postage charges to the requester at the cost to the authority of sending the information by first class post.

3.0 Complaints

Our aim is to make our information as available as possible, and we hope that you can access all the information we publish with ease. If you do wish to complain about any response to a re-use application, however, then please contact us, and we will try and resolve your complaint as quickly as possible. You can contact us at the address provided above.

Any complaint will be acknowledged within two working days of receipt and we will respond in full within a reasonable time.

You have legal rights to access information under this scheme and a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner if you are dissatisfied with our response.

3.1 The Information Commissioner

If, having made a complaint to the Valuation Joint Board and you are not satisfied with its response or you believe that it has not complied with its obligations under the regulations, then you can make a complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

ASSET LIST BY CLASS

1.0 COUNCIL TAX

Information Asset/Document	Publication Status	Availability	Cost
Sales Data/ Computer documents/ Spreadsheets	Not published	May be available on request, except where subject to third party copyright.	See reproduction costs above
VAC and Court of Session Case Decisions and , Regulations, Acts of Parliament etc.	Not published	May be available on request except where subject to third party copyright	See reproduction costs above

2.0 NON-DOMESTIC RATING

Information Asset/Document	Publication Status	Availability	Cost
Stated Cases, Legislation, Statutory Instruments & Opinions, etc.	Not published	May be available on request except where subject to third party copyright	See reproduction costs above

3.0 ELECTORAL REGISTRATION

Information Asset/Document	Publication Status	Availability	Cost
Register Distribution Lists (on publication and on request, free)	Not published	May be available on request	See reproduction costs above
Electoral Commission Performance Indicator Returns (data and financial information)	Not published	See VJB Board Reports, Annual Reports or Public Performance Reports at www.renfrewshire-	Free

		vjb.gov.uk . Also available on request.	
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4.0 BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES

4.1 Minutes of Meetings & Related Papers/Reports

Information Asset/Document	Publication Status	Availability	Cost
VJB Minutes, agendas and meeting papers	Not published	See www.renfrewshire.gov.uk	Free
Constituent Councils' Minutes	Not published	See relevant Council websites	Free

4.2 Finance

Information Asset/Document	Publication Status	Availability	Cost
Annual Accounts	Published	See www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk .	Free
Budgetary Control Reports	Not published	See Joint Board Reports at www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk .	Free
Detailed breakdown of Constituent elements of Revenue budget	Published in Board Papers/Accounts	See Joint Board Reports at www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk .	Free
Annual Assessor's Statements of Assurance		See Annual Report as above www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk .	Free
Annual Statements of Internal Control / Assurance Statement from Internal Audit		See Annual Report as above www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk .	Free
Audit Reports		See Annual Report as above www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk .	Free

4.3 Insurance and Risk Management

Information Asset/Document	Publication Status	Availability	Cost
Employer's Liability Certificates	Not published but displayed	Displayed at VJB office. Copies available on request	See reproduction costs above
Business Continuity Plan	Not Published	Available on request	Free
Risk Registers & Risk Action Plans	(Board Risk Register) Published	See Joint Board Reports at www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk .	Free

4.4 Health & Safety

Information Asset/Document	Publication Status	Availability	Cost
Accident books, records & reports	Only annual statistics published	See www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk for annual statistics	N/A

4.5 Property

Information Asset/Document	Publication Status	Availability	Cost
Lease documents/occupancy agreements/title deeds	Not published but Registered and available via Registers of Scotland	See Registers of Scotland or copies available on request	See reproduction costs above

4.6 Freedom of Information

Information Asset/Document	Publication Status	Availability	Cost

Requests/responses	Not published	Generally not available – Contain personal data	N/A
Register of Requests	Not published	Generally not available – Contains personal data – though statistical data on request is available on web site.	N/A

4.7 Other Information and Documents

Information Asset/Document	Publication Status	Availability	Cost
List of VJB Membership	Published	See www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk/who are we/	Free
Key Performance Indicators	Published	See www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk	Free
Public Performance Reports	Published	See www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk	Free
Complaints	Not individually published, though statistical reports are published	Not available individually. Statistics available via Annual Reports etc. or on request.	See reproduction costs above
Audit Reports	Published	See www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk	Free
Audit Action Plans	Published	See www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk	Free
Assessor's Annual Reports (as incorporated with final accounts)	Published	See www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk	Free
Equalities Policy & Reports	Published	See www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk	Free