



1. What's the current number of empty properties and long term empty properties across the council, as of June 2? If a figure is not available for June 2, please provide the most up-to-date figure available and state the date for which that figure is accurate.
 - a. How many of those are owned by the council?

Total number of unoccupied properties as of 5 June 2025 and extracted from Council Tax data is 3701.

450 Council empty properties as at 31st March 2025
 - b. What were the numbers as of 2 June 2019, in terms again of empty properties, long term empty properties, and council-owned empty/long term empty properties?

Total number of unoccupied properties as of 2 June 2019 and extracted from Council Tax data is 4284.

436 Council empty properties as at 31st March 2019.
2. How many people were on the social housing waiting lists on those two dates?

8,957 applicants as at 31st March 2019
12,328 applicants as at 31st March 2025
3. What's the reason that the long term empty properties are currently void? Please provide a breakdown by void status – i.e. classifying them as available (Undergoing works, Ready for Occupation, TA: Ready for letting, Long cycle void group, Major Works, Minor repairs), temporarily unavailable (Unauthorised Occupant, Squatted, Capital void, Redevelopment), and permanently unavailable (Demolition, Disposal) or a similar classification method that you use.

Unable to provide details for all Long-Term Empty properties from Council Tax data as this information is not recorded in a reportable format, however please see attached excel spreadsheet for Council empty properties.
4. Since 2019, have you undertaken any work around reducing your long term empty properties? If you have, was this done using internal resources, third party resources, or both?

We use a range of engagement letters, notices and enforcement notices where applicable to engage with owners of empty properties. We also offer the Developer hub whereby local developers can offer to purchase empty properties with the owner's consent. We offer a range of advice and support to empty home owners, the service is ran by the Private sector housing standards team. We sometimes use third party resources to trace home owners whereby we have exhausted all other options.

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| <p>5. How many properties were brought back into use as a result in each of those years since 2019? What were the average financial costs per property, in order for them to be brought back into use?</p> | <p>2019/20 - Unknown
 2020/21 - Unknown
 2021/22 - 35
 2022/23 - 172
 2023/24 - 50
 2024/25 - 242</p> |
| <p>6. What work is the council currently undertaking and what is it planning to undertake when it comes to reducing its long term empty properties?</p> | <p>We have a process of writing to property owners, engaging with them and where necessary taking enforcement action in line with our Empty Homes Strategy. The Empty Homes Strategy is currently under review, we are refreshing our enforcement policy in order to support the use of Enforced Sales, Compulsory Purchase Orders for the most complex long term empty properties.</p> |
| <p>7. Does the council offer financial support, in terms of grants or loans, to Long Term Empty property owners to help them bring properties back into use? If yes, how many owners have made use of that in every year since 2019?</p> | <p>The Council are delivering an Empty Homes Investment Scheme; this is a small-scale pilot whereby the Council will invest in a small number of local, long-term empty homes to bring them up to a good lettable standard. We will meet the cost of up-front refurbishment works (to a maximum cost of £25,000), with homes then taken onto a lease with the Council of between 5 and 7 years, and the investment recouped via the lease rental income. Once the investment has been recouped the remaining rental income will be made to you as the owner and the property will be returned to the owner at the end of the lease.</p> |
| <p>8. What's the budget, if any, that the council has allocated for supporting the reduction of empty properties?</p> | <p>There isn't currently a budget allocated to empty homes work.</p> |