

35560 Economic Development

I would be grateful if you could tell me, broken down by year for 2016-2021:

The number of people (Full time equivalent) working in the council's Economic Development team (or equivalent named team focused on regeneration).

The table below provides the number of Full-Time Equivalent staff working on regeneration only. The figures do not include staff in other service areas working on functions such as employment and business support.

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
4	4	4	2	2

There is no staffing record held for 2016.

I would also be grateful if you could tell me, for the year 2021:

The number of vacant commercial properties in town centres.

The vacant rate for commercial properties in town centres.

Commercial property vacancies are measured in different ways by different service areas. As the subject of your request is 'Economic Development', I have provided the information held by that service area. The most up-to-date record held by this service area is from 2018, as follows:

Town centre	Commercial units	Of which vacant	% vacant
Bruntsfield / Morningside	275	5	1.8%
Corstorphine	114	10	8.8%
Gorgie/Dalry	237	18	7.6%
Leith & Leith Walk	400	35	8.8%
Nicolson Street / Clerk Street	264	15	5.7%
Portobello	108	7	6.5%
Stockbridge	160	4	2.5%
Tollcross	160	12	7.5%

The above estimates relate to an annual survey based on a visual inspection of the town centre and noting which units were unoccupied. The vacancy rate is simply the number of vacant units divided by the number of total units.

The information recorded by our Non-Domestic Rates team will differ. An example of this would be 104-106 Princes Street which is still leased out and is shown on the vacancy roll as occupied. However, this shop closed last year. From an Economic Development perspective, the shop is vacant, but from an NDR perspective, it is not.

In addition, our Planning Service keep separate records of vacant commercial properties separated by 'Use Classes'.

If current Non-Domestic Rates information on vacant commercial properties is required, you must provide specific street names or postcodes.