



Our Reference:

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

13 January 2017

Dear

**Request for Information**

Thank you for your email dated 13 December 2016 requesting information on the Builder's Finance Fund. For ease of reference your request is below:

*How many grants for funding were allocated from the Builders' Finance Fund from when it was launched up to October 2016.*

*Please give the number of grants, the total allocated and the number of homes that will be delivered from these grants and how long each grant took to be approved.*

*Please also give information on how long each grant took to be decided, i.,e. either approved or rejected. By this, I mean the time in days between an application being lodged and a letter/email being dispatched to the applicant. Please break this information down into the standard 12 economic regions of the United Kingdom.*

We can confirm that we hold the information you requested, however please note that the allocations made under the Home Building fund are not grants but loans. For background, the Home Building Fund was launched in October 2016 and as well as providing new funding also consolidated a number of existing Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) Investment programmes into one fund. This included the Builders Finance Fund. All Builders Finance Fund projects which were live in October 2016 were re-recorded as Home Building Fund. For the purpose of this request we excluded any new applications which were received after the launch of the Home Building Fund.

Below is a table that details all the information you have requested but this is broken down by HCA operating area and not 'economic region' as we do not record it in this way.

| HCA Operating Area                   | Projects   | Homes        | Funding Amount       | Calendar days between application and investment approval (ave per project) |
|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| East and South East                  | 8          | 723          | £ 26,719,654         | 195                                                                         |
| London                               | 3          | 382          | £ 20,025,144         | 490                                                                         |
| Midlands                             | 22         | 1,231        | £ 28,114,232         | 133                                                                         |
| North East, Yorkshire and The Humber | 43         | 2,852        | £ 83,691,169         | 152                                                                         |
| North West                           | 15         | 1,052        | £ 27,688,821         | 166                                                                         |
| South and South West                 | 14         | 850          | £ 51,949,374         | 252                                                                         |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>105</b> | <b>7,090</b> | <b>£ 238,188,394</b> | <b>176</b>                                                                  |

During this period we rejected four projects and the table below provides the details on these projects.

| HCA OA | Homes | Calendar days between application and investment approval (ave per project) |
|--------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mids   | 85    | 214                                                                         |
| NW     | 80    | 164                                                                         |
| SSW    | 14    | 123                                                                         |

The number of calendar days taken to approve is based on the date on which the most recent application was submitted and the date when the relevant Agency committee approved the investment. Approval is dependent on the developer being able to provide the necessary information required and having met all eligibility criteria. Some of which, for example planning requirements, may only be satisfied post a submitted application but prior to approval. Such instances will result in delays in our ability to make an investment decision. Therefore, the timescales for approval provided above do not accurately reflect the time it took to approve once all information required was received, and only reflects the day on which the initial application was received to the day it was approved.

For information since the loans were allocated we've improved our IT systems and processes so that we can more efficiently move from application to investment approval stage however the projects above were more likely to experience longer periods between

application submission and investment approval, in comparison to the Home Building Fund, as they were received by the Agency prior to the new system and process being launched. The new process removes unnecessary obstacles to advance eligible applications.

If you have any questions regarding this response or any further queries you can contact us at the following addresses and quote your unique reference number found at the top of this letter:

**Email:** [mail@homesandcommunities.co.uk](mailto:mail@homesandcommunities.co.uk)

**Mail:** Information Access Officer  
Homes and Communities Agency  
Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

If you are unhappy with the way Homes and Communities Agency has handled your request you may ask for an internal review. You should contact

Head of Legal Services  
Homes and Communities Agency  
Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Online: <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/getting/>

Yours sincerely

Naomi McMaster  
Information Access Officer  
Homes and Communities Agency

