



Our Reference:

BY EMAIL ONLY

21 May 2015

Dear

Request for Information

Thank you for your email dated 17 April 2015 requesting copies of all documentation (held both electronically and in paper-form) relating to the properties 38-44 Islington Park Street, London, N1 1PX.

To provide some background, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has two roles, that of Social Housing Regulator (SHR) and our wider Investment role. The SHR role was previously carried out by the Tenants Services Authority (TSA), which was formerly part of the Housing Corporation (HC). This became part of the HCA's responsibilities in April 2012.

We can confirm that neither the SHR nor the wider HCA has any live files relating to the points 1 or 2 of your request below. For ease, we have answered your questions separately below.

- 1. All correspondence between the Housing Corporation and Patchwork Community Ltd and/or Patchwork Community Housing Association in respect of the properties, including but not limited to:**
 - a) the sale of the properties from Islington Council to Patchwork Community Ltd or Patchwork Community Housing Association in 1976;**
 - b) any loans or grants given to Patchwork Community Ltd and/or Patchwork Community Housing Association in respect of the properties; and**
 - c) all correspondence in connection with the merger of Patchwork Community Ltd and/or Patchwork Community Housing Association with Community Housing Association Ltd. For your information, the merger took place in 2005.**

The SHR holds no information on point 1c) of your request. This is because the retention schedule policy requires information on registration/de-registration to be destroyed after 3 years. As the merger took place over 3 years ago any information that

may have been held by SHR in relation to 1c) would have been destroyed. Further, it is unlikely the SHR would have held information on 1a) and 1b) of your request.

The HCA does hold some archived information on microfilm. All the information on microfilm was searched using key words such as 'Patchwork' and 'One Housing Group'. This search came back with 152 hits, however none of this information related to either the properties 38-44 Islington Park Street or the merger as per 1c). We can confirm that all microfilm information inherited from HC and relating to properties, rights and liabilities in London, was transferred to the Greater London Authority (GLA) in April 2012 as per a transfer scheme. You may wish to re-submit your request to the GLA in case they hold the information you require. We have provided you with their contact details for making a request at the end of this letter.

2. Any correspondence between the Housing Corporation and/or Housing and Communities Agency and Community Housing Group and/or One Housing Group regarding the properties for the period 2003 to date.

Although all information relating to properties, rights and liabilities in London would have been transferred to the GLA, the HCA may still hold, in archive, some information relating to the regulation of the above Registered Provider (One Housing Group, previously Community Housing Group) as part of our role as SHR.

However, we have determined that complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit and therefore we cannot proceed any further with this part of your request under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 200 (FOIA).

Section 12 of the FOIA makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for government agencies is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 working hours in **determining** whether the department holds the information, **locating**, **retrieving** and **extracting** the information.

The HCA inherited 2036 boxes of physical files from TSA/HC archives. These boxes do not have content filling and therefore they have to be manually scheduled in order to **determine** if we hold the requested information. We estimate this process would take circa 142 hours and 31 minutes to complete. We have arrived at this estimation by multiplying the time taken on work that has already begun on this task by the number of boxes we hold. It takes, on average, 7 hours to process 100 boxes. This equates to 4.2 minutes to process each box which gives the total estimation of 142 hours and 31 minutes.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA, we are required to provide advice and assistance on how you may narrow the scope of your request in order for us to be able to identify and locate the information you require. However, in this instance, as none of the boxes are marked with their contents it is impossible to provide a way of reducing the scope of your request. However, we would suggest that, as the task of scheduling the information contained within these boxes has already begun, that you may want to re-submit your request after a 6 month period when hopefully the remainder of the

information has been scheduled. We would then be able to provide you with confirmation that we do or do not hold the information you require.

GLA Contact Details

Post: Public Liaison Unit
Greater London Authority
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

Email: mayor@london.gov.uk

Fax: 020 7983 4057

We can however confirm that we have so far processed 250 of the 2036 boxes. None of the information contained within these boxes relates to Patchwork or One Housing Group.

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

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

Yours sincerely

Homes and Communities Agency
Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF

0300 1234 500
homesandcommunities.co.uk

Naomi McMaster
Information Access Officer
Homes and Communities Agency