

Date: 25/01/19
Our Ref: RFI2542
Your Ref: FOI Request – Chalgrove Airfield
Tel: 0300 1234 500
Email: foi@homesengland.gov.uk



Homes
England

[REDACTED]
By Email Only

Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0TL

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Request for Information – RFI2542

Thank you for your recent email, which was processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). For clarification, you requested the following information:

- 1) *The number of people who formally responded to Homes England's most recent consultation on Chalgrove Airfield.*
- 2) *Include all responses received by Homes England.*
- 3) *The number of hits recorded on Carter Jones' Homes England website – www.chalgroveairfield.com – and any responses that have been sent through that.*
- 4) *How much Homes England has paid Carter Jones for a) the website and b) any other work related to Chalgrove Airfield. Please detail all work carried out in b).*

Response

We will address each of your questions in turn.

1) The number of people who formally responded to Homes England's most recent consultation on Chalgrove Airfield.

We are able to confirm that we do hold the information that falls within the scope of your request.

The number of people who formally responded to Homes England's most recent consultation on Chalgrove Airfield was 136.

2) Include all responses received by Homes England.

We are able to confirm that we do hold the information that falls within the scope of your request.

Please find enclosed to this response (Annex A) all responses received by Homes England.

3) The number of hits recorded on Carter Jones' Homes England website – www.chalgroveairfield.com – and any responses that have been sent through that.

We are able to confirm that we do hold the information that falls within the scope of your request.

The number of hits recorded on Carter Jones' Homes England website www.chalgroveairfield.com is 21,000. Please find enclosed to this response (Annex B) 15 responses which were received through the website.

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Please note that we have redacted third party personal information from the annex in accordance with section 40(2) of the FOIA.

The full text of in the legislation can be found on the following link;

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/40>

4) How much Homes England has paid Carter Jones for a) the website and b) any other work related to Chalgrove Airfield. Please detail all work carried out in b).

We are able to confirm that we do hold the information that falls within the scope of your request.

Section 43 - Commercial interests

The information requested engages section 43(2) of the FOIA as its release would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the organisation and of Carter Jones.

Section 43 is a qualified exemption. This means that in order to withhold information under this exemption, we must consider the public interest in disclosure.

Public Interest Test – Factors in favour of disclosure

Homes England is compliant with the government agenda of transparency and recognises the benefit of publishing the information, particularly when it concerns how Homes England undertakes its work.

Public Interest Test – Factors in favour of non-disclosure

Homes England believes that it should not disclose the price paid to Carter Jones for the website and for other work relating to Chalgrove Airfield as it would be likely to prejudice ongoing and future commercial and contractual obligations between Carter Jones and the organisation. To disclose fees would prejudice the ability of Homes England to effectively manage future negotiations which would not be an effective use of public money.

It is also our view that disclosure of these costings could be detrimental concerning future procurement of services for both the organisation and Carter Jones, especially if the wider public is provided with information that could be used to exploit information for profit or other gain.

After careful consideration we have concluded that at this time, the balance of the public interest favours non-disclosure of this information.

The full text of in the legislation can be found on the following link;

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/43>

Advice and Assistance

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Section 16 of the FOIA. To comply with this duty we are able to confirm that Carter Jonas were instructed by Homes England to provide planning advice relating to the promotion of Chalgrove Airfield as a strategic allocation within the emerging South Oxfordshire Local Plan. This role has includes preparation of information submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council in the collation of their evidence base and leading the pre-application discussions with both South Oxfordshire District Council and

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Oxfordshire County Council working towards the submission of an outline planning application for a residential led mixed use development in 2019.

Right to Appeal

If you are not happy with the information that has been provided or the way in which your request has been handled you may request an internal review by writing to;

The Information Access Team

Windsor House

50 Victoria Street

London

SW1H 0TL

You may also complain to the Information Commissioner however, the Information Commissioner does usually expect the internal review procedure to be exhausted in the first instance.

The Information Commissioner's details can be found via the following link

<https://ico.org.uk/>

Please note that the contents of your request and this response are also subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Homes England may be required to disclose your request and our response accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

Information Access Team

For Homes England