

Date: 01/02/19
Our Ref: RFI2595
Your Ref: FOI Request – Torus Housing & Chequer Properties
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 – RFI2595

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

Torus Housing & Chequer Properties, Helena Court, Corporation st, St Helens WA9 1AD are awaiting a decision on the following planning application:

Ref : 2018/0837/FUL | Demolition of existing football ground, social club and associated buildings. Erection of 52 new dwellings including; 11no. 2-bed houses for affordable rent, 4no. 2-bed houses for shared ownership, 21no. 3-bed houses for shared ownership, 6no 4-bedhouses for shared ownership and 10no. 2-bed apartments for affordable rent for those over 55 years old... | Burscough AFC Victoria Park Mart Lane Burscough Lancashire L40 0SD.

This is a complex application, should planning permission be granted for the development, a condition for planning permission is that an alternative football stadium, as good or better, be built to replace the existing one.

In his report to committee recommending approval, The Councils director of regeneration and development John Harrison, said "the redevelopment of this site will contribute financially to the development of a new football ground for Burscough FC," which has already received planning approval.

This brings me to my question, are Torus Housing & Chequer Properties receiving any grants from Homes England to fund this project?

IF SO,

- 1. Can any grant monies from Homes England be used to help finance the replacement football stadium?*
- 2. Will the financing of the replacement stadium project add any unreasonable additional costs to the price of the affordable dwellings and rent?*
- 3. If this project is in receipt of a grant aid, will Homes England investigate that there is no breach of any of it's rules in the financing of the football stadium aspect of the project?*

Response

We will address each of your questions in turn.

- 1) We are able to confirm that we do not hold this information as Homes England is not funding Torus Housing in relation to this project.
- 2) We are able to confirm that we do not hold this information.
- 3) We are able to confirm that we do not hold this information.

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Advice and Assistance

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Section 16 of the FOIA. Homes England are aware that Torus are involved in discussions with Chequer Properties & West Lancashire District Council regarding a mixed tenure scheme, and in the future they may intend to submit a bid for grant funding towards the affordable housing element.

In the event a bid is received, affordable housing grant funding is only ever used to fund a proportion of the costs for the affordable homes and so will not be used to fund the football stadium.

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