

Date: 08/03/19
Our Ref: RFI2618
Your Ref: FOI Request – Great Glen, Leicestershire
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 – RFI2618

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

I am making enquiries in respect of an imminent land transaction between Homes England and Leicester Grammar Schools Trust to acquire approximately 16 acres of land adjacent to Chestnut Drive in Great Glen. Could you please inform me of the following;

- 1. When was the Land disposal opportunity advertised and are you able to provide details?*
- 2. What is the current status of the transaction, I suspect a conditional offer has been made by LGJS and accepted given that a planning application for the site is due to be submitted soon?*
- 3. There is a second piece of land adjacent measuring 12 Acres which is earmarked for Elderly Residential homes. What is the status of the disposal of this site?*
- 4. Would Homes England consider other offers to acquire any one or both these parcels of land.*
- 5. Any other relevant information that demonstrates that a transparent process has been followed in accordance with Policy and “Land Disposal Principles”*

Response

I am able to confirm that Homes England does not hold the information detailed in your request. This is because there is no legal or business reason for Homes England to do so.

In order to conclude that the information is not held, we have searched with our Midlands Delivery team who would have the requested information if held.

The FOIA does not oblige a public authority to create information to answer a request if the requested information is not held. The duty under section 1(1) is only to provide the recorded information held.

The full text of section 1 in the legislation can be found here:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/1>

Advice and Assistance

In compliance with the Section 45 Code of Practice and to offer advice and assistance under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 we are able to confirm the following in relation to each of your queries:

- 1) When was the Land disposal opportunity advertised and are you able to provide details?*

Leicester Grammar School approached Homes England (formerly Homes and Communities Agency) regarding purchasing the land. The land was not advertised. We have an accredited property agent working on this project who will be required to provide a signed valuation which will value the land and achieve best value for the tax payer.

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2) What is the current status of the transaction, I suspect a conditional offer has been made by LGJS and accepted given that a planning application for the site is due to be submitted soon?

The land price has not been agreed and consequently the terms and conditions of the sale have not been finalised.

3) There is a second piece of land adjacent measuring 12 Acres which is earmarked for Elderly Residential homes. What is the status of the disposal of this site?

The method of disposal of the land for the extra care residential scheme has not yet been formally determined.

4) Would Homes England consider other offers to acquire any one or both these parcels of land.

Homes England is required to assess offers based on achieving policy principles and delivering best value to the tax payer.

5) Any other relevant information that demonstrates that a transparent process has been followed in accordance with Policy and "Land Disposal Principles"

As stated above, a valuation is being prepared by an accredited property agent to achieve a market facing land valuation to achieve best value for the tax payer.

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

Or via email foi@homesengland.gov.uk

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.