

Date: 04/04/19
Our Ref: RFI2636
Your Ref: FOI Request – Plus Dane Housing - Affordable Housing
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 – RFI2636

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 would like to request, under the Freedom of Information Act, documents relating to the 'Shared Ownership and Affordable Housing Programme' application as submitted by Plus Dane Housing (Group) for the 20 units of remodelling and refurbishment works in the Welsh Streets area.

Response

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

We hold information relating to a 93 unit scheme that Homes England is investing in with Plus Dane Housing (Group).

We can confirm that we hold 1 document that specifically falls within the scope of your request and that relates to the 20 units as defined within your request.

The document that we are withholding from disclosure is an internal report that was presented at an internal meeting of the Housing Programme Board.

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 Agency.

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 report held by Homes England.

To disclose a copy of the report would be likely to prejudice ongoing commercial obligations between the Agency and third party concerned. This would prejudice the ability of Homes England to effectively manage the negotiations which would not be an effective use of public money.

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It is also our view that disclosure of this report could be detrimental concerning future requests for copies of internal reports, if the wider public is provided with such commercial information it 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 the non-disclosure of the valuation reports in their entirety.

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 The Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme 2016-21 grant agreement is published on the Homes England website.

All providers awarded an allocation in the programme sign up to a standard form of Grant Agreement.

Additionally allocations for the programme are also published on GOV.UK.

You can find the standard form of grant agreement via the following web link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/shared-ownership-and-affordable-homes-programme-2016-to-2021-guidance#shared-ownership-and-affordable-homes-programme-2016-to-2021-standard-form-contract->

Allocations of the programme are published via the following web link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/affordable-homes-programme-2016-to-2021-successful-bidders>

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 to 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/>

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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