

Date: 04/04/19
Our Ref: RFI2638
Your Ref: FOI Request – Housing Statistics
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 – RFI2638

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

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following statistics from yourselves:

How many properties in England meet the following conditions:

1) Are owned by individuals for buy to let purposes

a) How many of these properties currently have active tenants in them?

2) Are owned by individuals who do not reside in the property in question and are not owned for the purpose of renting/letting

a) How many of these individuals hold British Citizenship?

b) How many of these properties have no occupants residing in them?

3) On average, how many properties does a person who has invested in property for purposes other than living in them in England own?

a) What is the most and least common type of property owned by these individuals?

b) What is the average cost of these properties?

4) How many properties in England are “Leasehold”?

5) How many properties in England are “Freehold”?

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.

Homes England is a government agency which provides funding support to Help to Buy and Shared Ownership properties.

In order to conclude that the information is not held, we have searched with the relevant teams 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>

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Advice and Assistance

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Section 16 and Section 45 of the FOIA. To comply with this duty we are able to confirm that you may wish to direct your request to Land Registry or the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government.

Further information can be found on the following link.

<https://www.gov.uk/housing-local-and-community/land-registration>

We can confirm that we do hold information that relates to Help to Buy properties that would answer questions five and six of your request which may be of interest.

4) How many properties in England are "Leasehold"?

The total leasehold homes (not including flats or studios) from April 2013 - end Sep 2018 was 17,977 or 9% of total Help to Buy completions.

5) How many properties in England are "Freehold"?

The total freehold properties from the same period as above equates to a total of 146,998.

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/>

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