

Date: 09/04/19
Our Ref: RFI2647
Your Ref: FOI Request – Minimum Geography Areas (MGAs)
Tel: 0300 1234 500
Email: foi@homesengland.gov.uk



Homes
England

By Email Only

Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0TL

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Request for Information – RFI2647

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

For clarification, you requested the following information:

I am a researcher analysing published HCA/HE data on Affordable Housing Programme funding by area.

I attach a spreadsheet including sheets for successive outputs relating to the year ending March 2014, 2017 and 2018. The first two appear to be for the Operating Areas HE inherited from HCA and the 2018 data is for the adjusted HE Operating Areas effective from 2017. The final, fourth sheet lists my understanding of the match between 326 English metropolitan, unitary, London and lower-tier districts.

My FOI enquiry relates to HCA/HE Minimum Geography areas (MGAs), which is the lowest reporting geography you appear to use. The 2014 funding sheet lists 58 MGAs, the 2017 sheet 53 MGAs and the 2018 sheet 69 MGAs.

It is not possible to impute or infer the geographic coverage of successive MGAs based on their description; and nor was it possible to identify this from an internet search.

My FOI request is therefore for HE to provide a lookup or equivalent table listing each/any MGA used by HCA/HE since this reporting geography was first used, together with their constituent local authorities. Or to populate the final sheet of 326 local authorities by the MGA they form part of. Note: This request assumes the building block for MGAs is local authority districts; if not please elaborate and provide a map.

Please provide the information in the form of a spreadsheet.

Response

Please find enclosed to this response Annex A which contains the information held that falls within the scope of your request.

The annex contains our current list of local authority areas with their minimum geographies.

Please note the following points in conjunction with this data:

- There are some local authorities which are currently assigned to more than one minimum geography area.
- This data excludes London boroughs as these do not fall under Homes England's remit. For information on London please contact the Greater London Authority (GLA).
- The table below shows local authority changes that came in on the 1st April 2019.

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These changes are reflected in the attached data.

ONS Code	New Local Authority	Replacing	Part of Minimum Geography for...
E07000246	Somerset West and Taunton	Taunton Deane	Somerset
		West Somerset	
E06000058	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	Bournemouth Borough Council	Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset
		Christchurch Borough Council	
		Poole Borough Council	
E06000059	Dorset	East Dorset	Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset
		North Dorset	
		Purbeck	
		West Dorset	
		Weymouth and Portland	
E07000245	West Suffolk	St. Edmundsbury	Suffolk
		Forest Heath	
E07000244	East Suffolk	Suffolk Coastal	Suffolk
		Waveney	

- Our system still has local authority E07000112 named as Shepway. However it is referred to as Folkestone and Hythe in your data (its current name).

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