

Date: 25 June 2019
Our Ref: RFI2691
Your Ref: FOI Request – ICT Plans and Strategy
Tel: 0300 1234 500
Email: foi@homesengland.gov.uk



Homes
England

[REDACTED]
By Email Only

Windsor House
Homes England – 6th Floor
50 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0TL

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Request for Information – RFI2691

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

You requested the following information:

I wish to submit a request for some of the organisation's information around the internal plans and strategy documents regarding the ICT department.

The ICT documents I require are the 2019 – Onwards iteration. If any of the documents are, for example 2017-2020 they will suffice, but it would be ideal to see the 2019 version of the document. Or the most recent update.

I wish to obtain the following documents:

- 1. ICT/IM&T/IS Strategy- The IT department strategy or plans; highlights their current and future objectives.*
- 2. ICT Org Chart- A visual document that present the structure of the IT department. If possible, please include name and job titles. If this can't be sent, please consider a version with just the job titles, and the names and any other sensitive information redacted.*
- 3. ICT Annual or Business Plan- An annual update on the progress of working according to the ICT strategy / a document that highlights specific goals that you are working towards within your ICT department.*
- 4. ICT Capital Programme/budget- A document that shows financial budget regarding current and future ICT projects or goals.*

If some of these documents are not yet available, please state if you have any plans to publish the documents; if so, please give a rough date of when the documents will be available.

Response

We can confirm that we do hold recorded information that falls within the scope of your request. We will address each of your points in turn below.

- 1. ICT/IM&T/IS Strategy- The IT department strategy or plans; highlights their current and future objectives.**

Section 43 - Commercial interests

The information requested relating to the IT department strategy and plans engages section 43(2) of the FOIA as its release would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the Agency.

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Section 43 is a qualified exemption. This means that 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 believe that to disclose the recorded information held would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Agency if disclosed at this moment in time.

The recorded information held is in draft form and is currently going through our internal process of consultation and approval, to disclose the information to the wider public at this moment in time, before having been shared with the wider Agency, would be likely to prejudice the commercial interest of the Agency and its ability to proceed with the draft strategy. This in turn would be likely to prejudice the internal decision-making process and would not be in the interest of the wider public in our duty of providing a public service.

Therefore, after careful consideration we have concluded that at this time, the balance of the public interest favours the non-disclosure.

The full text of in the legislation can be found on the following link;

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/43>

- 2. ICT Org Chart- A visual document that present the structure of the IT department. If possible, please include name and job titles. If this can't be sent, please consider a version with just the job titles, and the names and any other sensitive information redacted.**

Please find enclosed to this response the current organisation chart (labelled Annex A) which we hope will be of assistance.

Section 40 – Personal information

We have redacted and are withholding some information on the grounds that it constitutes third party personal data and therefore engages section 40(2) of the FOIA.

To disclose personal data, such as names and employee numbers could lead to the identification of third parties and would breach one or more of the data protection principles.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption which means that we do not need to consider the public interest in disclosure. Once it is established that the information is personal data of a third party and release would breach one or more of the data protection principles, then the exemption is engaged.

The full text in the legislation can be found on the following link;

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/40>

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- 3. ICT Annual or Business Plan- An annual update on the progress of working according to the ICT strategy / a document that highlights specific goals that you are working towards within your ICT department.**

Section 43 - Commercial interests

The information requested relating to the IT department strategy and plans 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 to withhold information under this exemption, we must consider the public interest in disclosure.

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Discretionary Disclosure

Outside of the FOIA we can inform you that Homes England does hold and has publish a copy of their Strategic Plan. Although this does not relate directly to our IT services we believe that some of the information contained within may be of interest.

The plan can be found on the following link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homes-england-strategic-plan-201819-to-202223>

- 4. ICT Capital Programme/budget- A document that shows financial budget regarding current and future ICT projects or goals**

We can confirm that our Capital Budget for 2019/2020 is £1,927,506.

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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
Homes England – 6th Floor
Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0TL

Or by 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