

Date: 11/06/19  
Our Ref: RFI2696  
Your Ref: FOI Request – Help to Buy Equity Loans  
Tel: 0300 1234 500  
Email: foi@homesengland.gov.uk



Homes  
England

[REDACTED]  
By Email Only

Windsor House  
Homes England – 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
50 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0TL

Dear [REDACTED],

**RE: Request for Information – RFI2696**

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

You requested the following information:

*I am writing to submit a Freedom of Information request for data on the Help to Buy equity loan scheme. I was informed by MHCLG that Homes England may hold this information.*

*The data I am requesting is as follows:*

- A list of Help to Buy equity loans that have been repaid to the government in England - including the original equity loan granted (£) and the sum repaid (£). I do not require identifiable information such as property area/address etc.*
- A breakdown by local authority/region (whichever is available) of the number of Help to Buy equity loans that have been repaid in England and their value.*
- The overall number of Help to Buy equity loans that have been repaid in England and their aggregate value.*

*If this request is too broad and would take longer than the allocated time to process, please inform me and I can re-focus my request.*

**Response**

**Section 21 - Information accessible to applicant by other means**

We can confirm that we do hold information that falls within your request however the information requested section 21 of the FOIA as the information is accessible to the applicant by other means.

Section 21 is an absolute exemption. This means that we do not have to consider the public interest in disclosure.

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

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/21>

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 can confirm that the Help to Buy (Equity Loan) Scheme commenced on 01 April 2013; Official Statistics on the Scheme from that date until the initial reporting quarters of 2018/19 are available on the gov.uk website.

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/help-to-buy-equity-loan-scheme-statistics-april-2013-to-30-june-2018>

#### Section 44 – Prohibitions on disclosure

Some of the information requested forms part of National Statistics. It therefore cannot be disclosed in advance of the publication of National Statistics. This is specifically provided for under section 44(1)(a) of the FOIA as the disclosure is prohibited under any enactment. The relevant enactment for this information is the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007.

Section 44 is an absolute exemption. This means that we do not have to consider the public interest in disclosure.

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

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/44>

#### **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 – 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Windsor House  
50 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0TL

Or by email to [foi@homesengland.gov.uk](mailto: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