

Date: 17/07/2019
Our Ref: RFI2706
Your Ref: FOI Request – Countryside Properties PLC
Tel: 0300 1234 500
Email: foi@homesengland.gov.uk



Homes
England

██████████
By Email Only

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

Dear ██████████,

RE: Request for Information – RFI2706

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

How much financial support/funding/grants has Countryside Properties plc received from the government/Homes England or other respective governmental entities over the last 3 years? This includes but is not limited to the Housing Infrastructure Fund, funding received from Homes England and the Government's Land Assembly Fund (If "funding/financial support/grants" are deemed to be separate categories, please separate these into their respective categories in your response)

Can you please list all projects that the government/Homes England has entered into an agreement with or collaborated with Countryside Properties plc over the last 3 years. Please also include the extent of the involvement/collaboration between the two parties, the number of homes planned to be built and any financial details that are publicly available.

Response

We can confirm that we do hold information relating to your request. We will address each of your points in turn.

1) How much financial support/funding/grants has Countryside Properties plc received from the government/Homes England or other respective governmental entities over the last 3 years?

We only hold information relating to financial support/funding/grants received from Homes England and not from other government departments.

We can confirm that Countryside Properties PLC have not received any financial support/funding/grants from Homes England within the past three years.

In order to conclude this, we have searched with our Investments and Programmes teams who would have the requested information.

2) Can you please list all projects that the government/Homes England has entered into an agreement with or collaborated with Countryside Properties plc over the last 3 years.

We only hold information relating to projects/agreements entered into by Homes England and not from other government departments.

a) Help to Buy Programme

Countryside Properties PLC are actively participating in the Help to Buy Programme. There is established regular engagement between Countryside Properties PLC and the Homes England Help to Buy team in

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the context that they are one of our developers, with an approved forecast that are delivering Help to Buy across their sites.

Our Help to Buy Relationship Management team last met with Countryside Properties PLC on 3rd June 2019 as part of our regular meetings with our key developers.

Help to Buy is financial support in the form of an equity loan, paid at purchaser legal completion to individual purchasers. As such it is not funding or financial support to the developer and as such does not apply to question 1 above.

b) Freeks Farm

Homes England have entered into an Agreement For Lease with Countryside Properties PLC in relation to the Freeks Farm site at Northern Arc, Burgess Hill for the delivery of 460 homes.

Countryside Properties PLC were appointed on a competitive basis through the Delivery Partner Panel 3 (DPP3) framework, and were selected as the preferred bidder for the site in March 2019.

Guidance on the DPP3 process can be found on the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/delivery-partner-panel-3>

Advice and Assistance

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Section 16 of the FOIA.

Countryside Properties PLC acquired Westleigh Partnerships Ltd in 2018. Westleigh Partnerships were an Investment Partner with Homes England in their own right participating in the Affordable Homes Programme 2015-2018 and the Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme 2016-2021. Both of these agreements pre-date the acquisition of Westleigh Partnerships Ltd by Countryside Properties PLC.

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

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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