

Date: 29/08/19  
Our Ref: RFI2749  
Your Ref: FOI Request – Chalgrove Airfield  
Tel: 0300 1234 500  
Email: [foi@homesengland.gov.uk](mailto:foi@homesengland.gov.uk)



Homes  
England

██████████  
By Email Only

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

Dear ██████████,

**RE: Request for Information – RFI2749**

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:

*How much consultancy fees have been paid to Carter Jonas (or any other consultant) in the development of plans for Chalgrove Airfield.*

*All other fees paid for plans for plans made so far for Chalgrove Airfield, including details for each one.*

**Response**

**Section 43 - Commercial interests**

The information requested 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 in order 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 believes that it should not disclose the figure of consultancy fees that has been paid to Carter Jones nor any other fees paid for plans made so far in relation to Chalgrove Airfield as it would be likely to prejudice ongoing and future commercial and contractual obligations between Carter Jones and the organisation. To disclose fees would prejudice the ability of Homes England to effectively manage future negotiations which would not be an effective use of public money.

It is also our view that disclosure of these costings could be detrimental concerning future procurement of services for both the organisation and Carter Jones, especially if the wider public is provided with information that could be used to exploit information for profit or other gain.

After careful consideration we have concluded that at this time, the balance of the public interest favours nondisclosure of this information.

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

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

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### **Advice and Assistance**

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Section 16 of the FOIA. As such, we are able to advise that Homes England acquired the Chalgrove Airfield site in July 2016. Since this date, the total project costs (including all consultancy fees) to bring forward our development proposals at Chalgrove Airfield which includes all costs associated with our transport strategy and specifically our bypass proposals at Cuxham, Stadhampton and Chiselhampton are currently (as at 20 August 2019) £3.25m.

### **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