

Date: 02/09/2019
Our Ref: RFI2719
Your Ref: FOI Request – Help to Buy Loan Repayments 2013-2014
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 – RFI2719

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:

Would you be able to provide the following information:

- 1. Of the 42,399 properties to which the government provided a Help to Buy equity loan in 2013 and 2014 (as detailed in the housing ministry's quarterly statistical report on the scheme), how many of those loans have been repaid to the nearest available date?*
- 2. What was the total value of those 2013-14 loans when repaid (and, ideally, what was their value when originally lent)?*
- 3. What is the government's estimate of the total value of Help to Buy equity loans outstanding on 2013-14 properties (and, again, what was their value when originally lent)?*

Response

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

- 1) Of the 42,399 properties to which the government provided a Help to Buy equity loan in 2013 and 2014 (as detailed in the housing ministry's quarterly statistical report on the scheme), how many of those loans have been repaid to the nearest available date?**
- 2) What was the total value of those 2013-14 loans when repaid (and, ideally, what was their value when originally lent)?**

Section 22 - Information intended for future publication

We do hold the figures that you have requested in however, we rely on section 22 of the FOIA, to withhold the recorded information.

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

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/22>

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Section 22 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 can confirm that the information requested will be published, this will be an initial one-off publication which will cover data from April 2013 to March 2019. MHCLG and Homes England have been considering for some time the option of publishing Help to Buy: Equity Loan redemptions data. It is reasonable in the circumstances that this information is withheld from disclosure until the date of the initial one-off publication as this data is due to be made public and therefore not reasonable to be disclosed prior to this date. The prejudice that would arise here is that there would be a real and significant risk of prejudice occurring to the Homes England if the data is disclosed before it has been formally approved and ratified for publication.

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

3) What is the government's estimate of the total value of Help to Buy equity loans outstanding on 2013-14 properties (and, again, what was their value when originally lent)?

The government's estimate of the value of the loans issued between April 2013 and December 2014 that had not been repaid on or before 31 March 2019 was £1,105,067,022 on that date. The value of these loans when originally lent (the cost) was £984,552,330.

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/>

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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