

Date: 16/10/2019
Our Ref: RFI2790
Your Ref: FOI Request – Help to Buy Repayments
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 – RFI2790

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

Would you be able to provide data around principal repayments on the Help to Buy equity loan - both partial and full repayments.

It does not form part of the Help To Buy data tables published by the MHCLG and they suggested I reach out to you directly to see if this could be made available.

Response

We are able to inform you that we do hold the information that you have requested, however it is exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the FOIA; information is intended for future publication.

In order for the exemption to apply Homes England must have a clear intention to publish the requested information and it be reasonable to withhold the information until that date; an exact date of publication does not need to have been determined.

Homes England can confirm that we intend to publish the requested information before the end of the calendar year and assert it is reasonable that the information is withheld until that date in line with accepted practices on publishing statistics.

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 recognises the general benefit of publishing information in relation to the Help to Buy Equity Loan scheme to allow for scrutiny of how Homes England undertakes its work and to meet the general government agenda of transparency.

Public Interest Test – Factors in favour of non-disclosure

- Releasing the requested information before it has been fully verified may result in inaccurate or misleading information being published. Without proper verification of the data we would be unable to provide context to ensure that it is not misunderstood;
- At this stage in the proposed publication timetable, to provide the information earlier would undermine public credibility in Government statistics and announcements; and

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- Though we acknowledge the public interest in the information requested, we cannot identify a wider public interest in publishing the information ahead of schedule.

Therefore, after careful consideration, we have concluded that the balance of the public interest favours withholding the information.

In compliance with the Section 45 Code of Practice (Paragraph 14) and to offer advice and assistance under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we can advise you that the redemptions data will be published on the Homes England website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/homes-england>).

The full text of section 22 in the legislation can be found on the following link:

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

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