

Date: 23/10/2019
Our Ref: RFI2798
Your Ref: FOI Request – Home Building Fund
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 – RFI2798

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 many grants for funding have been allocated from the Home Builders Fund between October 2018 and the end of September 2019? Please give the number of grants, the total allocated and the number of homes that will be delivered from these grants and how long each grant took to be approved. Please separate the number and total value of those grants made for homes from those made for infrastructure work*
- *Please also give information on how long each grant took to be decided, i.e. either approved or rejected. By this, I mean the time in days between an application being lodged and a letter/email being dispatched to the applicant. Please break this information down into the standard 12 economic regions of the United Kingdom.*

We wrote to you to ask for clarification regarding your request, as the Home Building Fund provides assistance in the form of loans and not grants. You confirmed that the information you seek in your request relates to loans provided by the Home Building Fund, and therefore our response below addresses funding in the form of loans.

Response

We can confirm that we do hold the requested information. We will address each of your points in turn. As stated above, where your request states 'grants' we have provided the information for loans.

- ***How many grants for funding have been allocated from the Home Builders Fund between October 2018 and the end of September 2019?***
 - ***Please give the number of grants*** – A total of 56 loan applications contracted between the 1st October 2018 and the 30th September 2019.
 - ***the total allocated*** – A total of £398.5m was allocated to the contracted applications.
 - ***the number of homes that will be delivered from these grants*** - These loans are anticipated to deliver 19,501 units of unlocked housing capacity and 4,418 homes.
 - ***how long each grant took to be approved*** – Please refer to the attached Annex A which sets out the number of working days it took from origination to approval for each of the contracted projects.
 - ***Please separate the number and total value of those grants made for homes from those made for infrastructure work.*** – The information provided above is split as follows:
 - 52 Housing development projects and 4 Infrastructure projects
 - £270.5m on Housing development loans and £128m on Infrastructure loans

Date: 23/10/2019
Our Ref: RFI2798
Your Ref: FOI Request – Home Building Fund
Tel: 0300 1234 500
Email: foi@homesengland.gov.uk

- ***Please also give information on how long each grant took to be decided, i.,e. either approved or rejected. By this, I mean the time in days between an application being lodged and a letter/email being dispatched to the applicant. Please break this information down into the standard 12 economic regions of the United Kingdom.***
 - In the period between the 1st of October 2018 and the 30th of September 2019 56 Home Building Fund projects contracted and a further 33 projects were approved. 79 projects withdrew during the due diligence process as they were ineligible for funding and a further 159 projects were withdrawn as the prospective borrower ceased communication with us. No projects were formally rejected.
 - The attached Annex B sets out the number of working days it took from origination to approval for each of the approved projects, broken down into economic region.
 - The attached Annex C sets out the number of working days it took from origination to withdrawal for each of the withdrawn projects, with the reason for withdrawal, broken down into each economic region.

Section 40 – Personal information

We are withholding the personal information of the applicant(s) on the grounds that it constitutes third party personal data and therefore engages section 40(2) of the FOIA.

To disclose personal data, such as names, contact details, addresses, email addresses and personal opinions could lead to the identification of third parties and would breach one or more of the data protection principles.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption which means that we do not need to consider the public interest in disclosure. Once it is established that the information is personal data of a third party and release would breach one or more of the data protection principles, then the exemption is engaged.

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

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/40>

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

Date: 23/10/2019
Our Ref: RFI2798
Your Ref: FOI Request – Home Building Fund
Tel: 0300 1234 500
Email: 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