

Date: 31/10/2019
Our Ref: RFI2803
Your Ref: FOI Request – Japan Delegation
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 – RFI2803

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

Please provide costs of the recent Homes England delegation to Japan. Please provide the business case for it.

Response

We can confirm that we do hold some of the requested information. We will address each of your points in turn.

1) Please provide costs of the recent Homes England delegation to Japan

Homes England's Chief Executive, Nick Walkley, visited Japan on behalf of HM Government (The Department for International Trade and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) in September as part of a trade mission titled 'Investment in UK Housing and Regeneration'.

The costs for Nick Walkley's trip were as follows:

British Airways return flight (Economy) - £1655.72

Hotel in Tokyo - £673.29

Taxis in Tokyo - £25.76

Trains - London Paddington/London Heathrow - £47.00

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Section 16 of the FOIA and as such, we can confirm that Nick Walkley was the only attendee from Homes England. However, as Nick Walkley attended as part of a wider trade mission, we would advise you that the Department for International Trade and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office may also have costs related to this trip. Therefore you may wish to contact either of these departments for further information. Their details are as follows:

Department for International Trade:

Information Rights Unit
55 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EY
United Kingdom
FOI@trade.gov.uk

Foreign and Commonwealth Office:

FOI and DPA Team
Parliamentary and Ministerial Services
Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Room WH 2.177
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH
foi-dpa.pmcs@fco.gov.uk

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2) Please provide the business case for it.

We are able to inform you that we do not hold any recorded information as defined by the FOIA in relation to this part of your request. However, outside of the Act, we can provide you with the following statement:

The event 'Investment in UK Housing and Regeneration' was held to encourage and foster positive trade relationships between both Japanese investors and British business executives with regards to international investment in UK housing. As the Chief Executive for the Government's housing accelerator, Nick Walkley was invited to deliver the keynote address.

We have recently forged a new partnership with Sekisui House, Japan's biggest housebuilder, alongside Urban Splash, a UK Small to Medium Enterprise (SME). The multi-million pound deal will see the two companies work with Homes England to deliver thousands of new homes across England. The Sekisui House partnership has been made possible with funds from the Home Building Fund (which is managed by Homes England) and will bring skills in modular, sustainable and fast-paced construction to boost housebuilding in the UK.

The content of a speech delivered by Nick Walkley as part of the 'Investment in UK Housing and Regeneration' event in Japan can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/japan-rugby-world-cup-investment-in-uk-housing-regeneration>

Further information regarding Homes England's partnership with Sekisui House can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boost-for-housing-market-as-japans-biggest-housebuilder-sekisui-house-moves-into-uk>

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