

Date: 13 December 2019
Our Ref: RFI2851
Your Ref: FOI Request – Housing Statistics
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 – RFI2851

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:

I'm contacting you under the Freedom of Information Act to request the following information:

Housing starts and completions on surplus public sector land owned or sold by Homes England (or previously sold by HCA), from 2011 to present, broken down by tenure including all categories of affordable housing and market housing. For example, market sale, market rent, social rent, affordable rent, shared ownership etc.

Section 21 – Information accessible by other means

We can confirm that we do hold information that falls within the scope of your request however, we rely on section 21 of the FOIA, an exemption where information is available to the applicant elsewhere.

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

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/21>

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with section 16 of the FOIA, to comply with this duty we have provided the below links to Homes England publications. The information that you have requested comprising Housing Starts and Completions data is contained within the first link. Public Sector Land information is contained within the third and fourth links.

Homes England Annual Statistics

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/housing-statistics-1-april-2019-to-30-september-2019>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homes-england-annual-report-and-financial-statements>

Government Annual Reports

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-land-for-housing-programme-2015-to-2020-annual-report>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-land-for-housing-programme-2015-to-2020-progress-report>

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Section 22 – Information intended for future publication

We can also confirm that we hold information that falls within the scope of your request that has yet to be published. The Housing Statistics document that has been published on the link above contains data up to 30 September 2019.

In regard to the information between 30 September 2019 and the date of your request, we rely on section 22 of the FOIA to withhold disclosure of the information; an exemption where information is intended for future publication.

Section 22 - Information intended for future publication.

(1) Information is exempt information if:

- (a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),
- (b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and
- (c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).

(2) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would involve the disclosure of any information (whether or not already recorded) which falls within subsection (1).

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. Housing Statistics data for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 will be published in June/July 2020.

It is reasonable in the circumstances that this information is withheld from disclosure until the date of the official publication. The data forms part of National Statistics and as such, should not be disclosed until it has been checked and verified for accuracy. It would not be in the public interest if the data were to be disclosed before it has been formally approved and ratified for publication, as this would undermine public credibility in Government statistics and announcements.

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

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

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

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with section 16 of the FOIA, to comply with this duty we can confirm that the Housing Statistics data for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 will be published in June/July 2020 on the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/housing-statistics> .

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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