



Homes
England

Date: 09/01/2020
Our Ref: RFI2872
Tel: 0300 1234 500
Email: foi@homesengland.gov.uk

Making homes happen

██████████
By Email Only

Windsor House
Homes England – 6th Floor
50 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0TL

Dear ██████████

RE: Request for Information – RFI2872

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

the press has widely reported the purchase by Homes UK of 250 acres of potential building land in Nottinghamshire on a site known as Fairham using the Government's Land Development Fund - see link

. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/homes-england-signs-deal-to-build-3000-homes-in-nottinghamshire>

The gross development value is also widely reported as £825 million. Unfortunately, I've found it very difficult to establish how much was actually paid for the land. The spreadsheet identifying individual items of expenditure on the Homes UK is impractical to use or access.

Could you therefore please let me know under the Freedom of Information Act both the total cost of the purchase and in terms of cost per acre paid by Homes UK.

Response

We are able to inform you that we do hold the information that you have requested. However, we rely on section 21, exemption where information is available to the applicant elsewhere.

The full text of the legislation can be found on the following link and we have quoted section 21 below for ease.

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

21 - Information accessible to applicant by other means.

(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)—

(a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and

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(b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2)(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme.

Advice and Assistance

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Section 16 of the FOIA. As such, we can advise that the purchase price paid by Homes England for this land is publicly available at HM Land Registry:

https://onlinelandregistry.org.uk/?utm_source=Bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=BingAds&msclkid=8acd5a93a8bc19bc3af504861100c595 .

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