



Homes  
England

Date: 07/02/2020

Our Ref: RFI2897

Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: [foi@homesengland.gov.uk](mailto:foi@homesengland.gov.uk)

Making homes happen

By Email Only

Windsor House  
Homes England – 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
50 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0TL

Dear [REDACTED]

**RE: Request for Information – RFI2897**

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 may I have access to this information:*

- 1. Contract, terms and conditions, confidentiality agreement or similar, covering the HIF bid process, between Homes England and Wiltshire Council,*
- 2. Questions, requests for information etc. put to Wiltshire Council or its agents by Homes England, relating to Wiltshire council's HIF bids for:*
  - (a) Chippenham Urban Expansion, Wiltshire,*
  - (b) Ashton Park Urban Extension, Wiltshire.*

*To clarify, this request does not cover:*

- (i) Contracts covering award funding, payment etc. for a successful HIF bid,*
- (ii) Answers or information provided in response to the questions and requests.*

**Response**

We are able to inform you that we do hold the information that you have requested. However, to comply with your request would exceed the appropriate limit for the cost of compliance. We therefore rely on section 12, exemption where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit under the FOIA.

The full text of the legislation can be found on the following link and we have quoted section 12 below for ease.

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

**Section 12 - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit**

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

(2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.

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(3) In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.

(4) The Minister for the Cabinet Office may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority:

(a) by one person, or

(b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign, the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.

(5) The Minister for the Cabinet Office may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated.

We have considered the current wording of your request and in its current scope we have determined that to establish where all elements of the information is held, to locate the information, retrieving the information and extracting the information would exceed the appropriate limit in terms of timeframes.

Under the terms of the Act we are not obliged to provide any information compiled in the course of our searches prior to concluding section 12 is engaged.

### **Advice and Assistance**

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, you may wish to consider narrowing the scope of your request. The request could be narrowed by specifying a project, specifying a timeframe for correspondence, or further specifying correspondence between particular parties. You could also specify correspondence relating to a particular part of the project, for example; planning, due diligence, public engagement etc.

Please note that due to the broad scope of your request we cannot confirm that any further request would not also exceed the section 12 cost limit at this time.

### **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 – 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Windsor House  
50 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0TL

Or by email to [foi@homesengland.gov.uk](mailto:foi@homesengland.gov.uk)



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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

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