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of Defence

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18 December 2019

Ref. FOI2019/13039

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 19 November 2019 requesting the following information:

*"I am writing to you to seek information, under the Freedom of Information Act that you may hold on the proposed Clotherholme barracks site development by Housing England.*

- 1) *who took the decision to aim for 1300 housing units and only 2 hectares of employment land, and when;*
- 2) *in taking this decision, what consideration was given to the RCNP text as the only properly made local planning document;*
- 3) *what criteria were applied in arriving at the development brief under which Homes England have been operating this year, and by whom - in particular, what consideration was given to the proximity of public transport, the supply of and demand for employment land and the provision of sports facilities;*
- 4) *why was there no public consultation on the change to 1300 housing units, no sports fields and only 2 hectares of employment land (the recent consultations have taken these as a given);*
- 5) *whether the documents being prepared by Homes England are intended to be the masterplan envisaged for the site in the RCNP and, if so, what consideration has been given to each of the bullets in the text quoted above from the RCNP;*
- 6) *what is the timescale for receipt of the review of playing field requirements in the Harrogate district, how will this be analysed and taken into account in the planning process for development on the Clotherholme site;*
- 7) *what consultation took place with the public or with Ripon City Council during the creation of the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) submitted to the public inquiry held on the Harrogate Local Plan;*
- 8) *who gave final approval to the SoCG in the local authorities who were signatories – the full council, a committee, the relevant cabinet member, the cabinet or officers;*
- 9) *how was the list of highways matters in SoCG defined and by whom;*
- 10) *why it envisaged only minor improvements to three junctions on the western side of Ripon, when the number of housing units on the Clotherholme site had been increased to 1300;*
- 11) *whether North Yorkshire County Council does have a formal policy against paying for new highways or major highway improvements, what criteria it applies to deciding whether to proceed with highways improvements that cannot be funded solely by a developer, and how the Bedale bypass and recent highway schemes at Skipton and Thirsk (Sowerby) A168 were funded."*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below:

- 1) *who took the decision to aim for 1300 housing units and only 2 hectares of employment land, and when;*

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) made the decision and submitted comments to the Harrogate District Local Plan: Publication Draft 2018, which was published on 9 March 2018 and can be found at the link below –

[https://consult.harrogate.gov.uk/common/search/advanced\\_search.jsp?page=0&pageSize=20&searchQuery=&lookingFor=representations&tab=list&eventId=32086&id=1155934&sortMode=response\\_date&x=29&y=8](https://consult.harrogate.gov.uk/common/search/advanced_search.jsp?page=0&pageSize=20&searchQuery=&lookingFor=representations&tab=list&eventId=32086&id=1155934&sortMode=response_date&x=29&y=8)

- 2) *in taking this decision, what consideration was given to the RCNP text as the only properly made local planning document;*

The decision was made before the Ripon City Neighbourhood Plan (RCNP) was progressed.

- 3) *what criteria were applied in arriving at the development brief under which Homes England have been operating this year, and by whom - in particular, what consideration was given to the proximity of public transport, the supply of and demand for employment land and the provision of sports facilities;*

DIO and Homes England agreed a new partnership approach to work together to develop land being released by the MOD as set out in a Memorandum of Understanding dated 25th September 2018 between DIO and Homes England.

Claro and Deverell Barracks is included as one of the first seven sites that have formed part of this announcement. In the last year DIO and Homes England have been working together to progress the Ripon Barracks site through the planning process, continuing to work to deliver the high level development objectives set out in the DIO response to the Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) Local Plan. They are also working to progress the site in accordance with the Ripon Barracks Statement of Common Ground (SoCG).

- 4) *why was there no public consultation on the change to 1300 housing units, no sports fields and only 2 hectares of employment land (the recent consultations have taken these as a given);*

Information not held.

- 5) *whether the documents being prepared by Homes England are intended to be the masterplan envisaged for the site in the RCNP and, if so, what consideration has been given to each of the bullets in the text quoted above from the RCNP;*

Information not held.

6) *what is the timescale for receipt of the review of playing field requirements in the Harrogate district, how will this be analysed and taken into account in the planning process for development on the Clotherholme site;*

Information not held.

7) *what consultation took place with the public or with Ripon City Council during the creation of the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) submitted to the public inquiry held on the Harrogate Local Plan;*

Information not held.

8) *who gave final approval to the SoCG in the local authorities who were signatories – the full council, a committee, the relevant cabinet member, the cabinet or officers;*

Information not held.

9) *how was the list of highways matters in SoCG defined and by whom;*

A list of the highways matters was developed between Homes England and HBC in conjunction with North Yorkshire County Council as Local Highway Authority.

DIO were briefed by Homes England on the development of the SoCG and subsequently signed the SoCG.

10) *why it envisaged only minor improvements to three junctions on the western side of Ripon, when the number of housing units on the Clotherholme site had been increased to 1300;*

Information not held.

11) *whether North Yorkshire County Council does have a formal policy against paying for new highways or major highway improvements, what criteria it applies to deciding whether to proceed with highways improvements that cannot be funded solely by a developer, and how the Bedale bypass and recent highway schemes at Skipton and Thirsk (Sowerby) A168 were funded."*

Information not held.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to know that question four of your FOI request should be directed to HBC and questions five, six, seven and ten of your FOI request should be directed to Homes England.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made in writing within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow,

Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

DIO Secretariat