

By Email Only

Date: 22 March 2021 Our Ref: RFI3348 Tel: 0300 1234 500 Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk Making homes happen

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

Dear

## RE: Request for Information – RFI3348

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

*I request information regarding the announcement to the public of the Parish of Woolsery, North Devon, that the following individuals have applied for and received a grant towards an affordable housing project in the village.* 

The approved planning application is for the erection of 4 one-bedroomed flats on land adjacent to Woolsery Sports and Community Hall - Post Code EX39 5TY - Land Registration DN 408453. Supported by a 106 Agreement with the District Council.

Applicants : - ' Known as Trustees of the Woolsery Sports and Community Hall Charity '.

The above situation and claims have been challenged with both the Parish and District Councils but were rejected and remain unresolved.

This FOI request is to establish if there has been a grant provided by Homes England under the affordable homes programmes 2016 to 2021, and how, or whether, the above individuals are qualified as HCA / Investment Partners. Also if they are in the process to become a Registered Provider and Landlord.

#### **Response**

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

#### Grant provided by Homes England:

We can confirm that a grant has been allocated under the Affordable Homes Programme 2016/21 for four affordable rented homes on land adjacent to the Woolsery Community Hall.

#### Individuals as Investment Partners:

We can confirm that Woolfardisworthy Sports and Community Hall (WSCH) are an Investment Partner with Homes England. The individuals named in your request are listed as trustees of WSCH on the Charity Commission website: WOOLFARDISWORTHY SPORTS AND COMMUNITY HALL - 1189301 (charitycommission.gov.uk)

#### **OFFICIAL**



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#### Individuals as Registered Providers:

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

(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 Registered Providers are published on the following link: List of registered providers – 23 February 2021 - <u>GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u>. Woolfardisworthy Sports and Community Hall (WSCH) are listed as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). The trustees of WSCH are publicly available on the following link and detail the individuals in your request: <u>WOOLFARDISWORTHY SPORTS AND COMMUNITY HALL - 1189301</u> (charitycommission.gov.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. You can request an internal review by writing to Homes England via the details below, quoting the reference number at the top of this letter.

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk



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

Your request for review must be made in writing, explain why you wish to appeal, and be received within 40 working days of the date of this response. Failure to meet this criteria may lead to your request being refused.

Upon receipt, your request for review will be passed to an independent party not involved in your original request. We aim to issue a response within 20 working days.

You may also complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) 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 <a href="https://ico.org.uk/">https://ico.org.uk/</a>

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, The Information Governance Team For Homes England

# Making homes happen