



Homes
England

Date: 8 April 2021
Our Ref: RFI3372
Tel: 0300 1234 500
Email: infogov@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 – RFI3372

Thank you for your request for information which we have processed in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulation 2004 (EIR).

You requested the following information:

I'm writing to request copies of the Environmental Statements for Homes England's planning applications for Northstowe Phases 3A and 3B.

Response

We can confirm that we do hold the information which falls within the scope of your request. However, we have determined that your request is manifestly unreasonable and we therefore rely on regulation 12(4)(b) of the EIR, an exception that states that a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that the request for information is manifestly unreasonable.

The full text of the legislation (regulation 12) can be found on the following link:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/3391/regulation/12/made>

We have considered your request and have determined that the exception can be engaged because Homes England and other public authorities that already complied with their duty in accordance with regulation 4 of the EIR in that the information requested is already in the public domain and so the requirement to ensure proactive dissemination has been fulfilled.

The full text of the legislation (regulation 4) can be found on the following link:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/3391/regulation/4/made>

The information that you have requested is readily available via the following weblinks, furthermore paper copies of the information was provided to both Oakington and Longstanton Parish Council's as well as South Cambridgeshire District Council and might still be available for public viewing.

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[20/02171/OUT | Outline planning application for the development of Northstowe Phase 3A for up to 4,000 homes, two primary schools, a local centre \(including employment, community, retail and associated services, food and drink, community, leisure, residential uses and other accommodation\), secondary mixed use zones \(including employment, community, retail and associated services, food and drink, community, leisure, residential uses\), open space and landscaped areas, sports pitches, associated engineering and infrastructure works, including the retention of the existing military lake and creation of a new lake, with details of appearance, landscaping, layout, scale and access reserved. Application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement and involves works to/affecting existing Public Rights of Way. | Northstowe Phase 3A Rampton Road Longstanton Cambs \(\[greatercambridgeplanning.org\]\(http://greatercambridgeplanning.org\)\)](#)

[20/02142/OUT | Outline planning application for the development of Northstowe Phase 3B, comprising up to 1,000 homes, a primary school, secondary mixed use zone \(with retail and associated services, food and drink, community, leisure, employment and residential uses\), open space and landscaped areas, engineering and infrastructure works, with details of appearance, landscaping, layout, scale and access reserved. Application accompanied by an Environmental Statement. | Northstowe Phase 3B Station Road Longstanton Cambs \(\[greatercambridgeplanning.org\]\(http://greatercambridgeplanning.org\)\)](#)

Regulation 12(4)(b) allows us to refuse requests that we feel are manifestly unreasonable. Guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office states that requests may be manifestly unreasonable if dealing with a request would create unreasonable costs or an unreasonable diversion of resources.

With the reliance of the regulation 12(4)(b) exception Homes England must carry out a public interest test to assess whether it is in the wider public interest for the information to be disclosed.

Arguments in favour of disclosure:

- Homes England acknowledges there is a general public interest in promoting accountability, transparency, public understanding and involvement in how Homes England undertakes its work and how it spends public money; and
- Homes England understand its requirements in regard to the regulation 4 of the EIR in that of dissemination of environmental information.

Arguments in favour of withholding:

- Homes England has already complied with its legal duty to disseminate the information held in regard to regulation 4 of the EIR and was done so in a proactive manner;
- The public interest in maintaining this exception lies in protecting public authorities from exposure to disproportionate burden or to an unjustified level of disruption;
- Dealing with manifestly unreasonable requests can place a strain on resources and get in the way of public authorities delivering mainstream services or answering other requests; and
- Homes England has been unable to identify a wider public interest in disclosing the information requested.

Having considered the arguments for and against disclosure of the information, we have concluded that at this time, the balance of the public interest favours non-disclosure.



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Advice and Assistance

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance, we have mentioned above that paper copies were provided to several public authorities. You might wish to establish contact with these parties to see if the paper copies can be accessed and inspected.

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

The Information Governance Team
Homes England – 6th 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:

<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,

The Information Governance Team

For Homes England

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