



Homes  
England

Date: 27 April 2021

Our Ref: RFI3399

Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: infogov@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 ██████████

**RE: Request for Information – RFI3399**

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

- *You said that ‘value for money, deliverability and fit with local and strategic need’ has been assessed. Can you provide the Information to show how this assessment was made by Homes England.*
- *You said ‘support was also secured for the bid from the Council’ can you provide the information related to this.*
- *You said ‘Yarm is situated on a main bus route, with the train station linking to Darlington and Stockton’. Can you provide the information to show how Home England made this assessment.*

*These statements were all drafted by Homes England for the Government.*

**Response**

We can confirm that we do hold some information that falls within the scope of your request. We will address each of your points as follows:

- ***You said that ‘value for money, deliverability and fit with local and strategic need’ has been assessed. Can you provide the Information to show how this assessment was made by Homes England.***
- and***
- ***You said ‘support was also secured for the bid from the Council’ can you provide the information related to this.***

**Section 14(2) – Repeated Requests**

We have considered your above request and have concluded that a response is refused under Section 14(2) of the FOIA.

Where a public authority has previously complied with a request for information which was made by any person, it is not obliged to comply with a subsequent *identical* or *substantially similar* request from that person unless a

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reasonable interval has elapsed between compliance with the previous request and the making of the current request.

On the 10 February we responded to a request which was substantially similar to that of the above and also submitted by you referenced RFI3207. Therefore Section 14(2) is engaged and maintained.

Once the first Section 14(2) refusal notice has been issued we will not continue to acknowledge or respond to repeated requests. Please take this as the first refusal notice. However, should a reasonable interval elapse before the request is resubmitted or if a new request is received from you that is substantially different in nature, we will process said request under the FOIA.

We can confirm that all information held by Homes England that falls within the scope of your two questions above was provided in the response to RFI3207.

- ***You said 'Yarm is situated on a main bus route, with the train station linking to Darlington and Stockton'. Can you provide the information to show how Home England made this assessment.***

We are able to confirm that Homes England does not hold the information detailed in your request. This is because there is no legal or business reason for Homes England to do so.

In order to conclude that the information is not held, we have searched with our Provider Management within the Affordable Housing team who would have the requested information if held.

The FOIA does not oblige a public authority to create information to answer a request if the requested information is not held. The duty under section 1(1) is only to provide the recorded information held.

The full text of section 1 in the legislation can be found here:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/1>

#### Advice and Assistance

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Section 16 of the FOIA. To comply with this duty we are able to confirm that as part of the bidding approval process Homes England would have noted the fact that the site in question had transport links and taken this into account in their consideration of the bid. However there was no formal transport link assessment carried out by Homes England as this is not required. There is no recorded information held by Homes England in relation to transport links at this site.

#### **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](mailto:infogov@homesengland.gov.uk)



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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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