



Homes  
England

Date: 5 July 2021

Our Ref: RFI3507

Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: [infogov@homesengland.gov.uk](mailto: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 – RFI3507**

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

*Site Name: Bicester Magistrates' Court.*

*I would like to know who / which company to approach regarding potential planning application for this site.*

**Response**

We are able to inform you that we do hold the information that you have requested. However, we rely on section 22, exemption where information is intended for future publication under the FOIA.

The full text of the legislation can be found on the following link and we have quoted section 22 below for ease.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/22>

**Section 22 - Information intended for future publication.**

(1) Information is exempt information if:

- (a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),
- (b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and
- (c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).

(2) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would involve the disclosure of any information (whether or not already recorded) which falls within subsection (1).

Section 22 is a qualified exemption. This means that in order to withhold information under this exemption, we must consider the public interest in disclosure.

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#### Public Interest Test – Factors in favour of disclosure

Homes England is compliant with the government agenda of transparency and recognises the benefit of publishing the information, particularly when it concerns how Homes England undertakes its work. We acknowledge that there is local interest in the potential development at this site and the assessment of future funding available

#### Public Interest Test – Factors in favour of non-disclosure

The information will be publicly available at land registry once the sale registration is complete. It is reasonable that a public authority not divert resources where the information is readily available to the public. To disclose information via FOIA that is available at Land Registry would increase the likelihood of future requests being made under FOIA for similar publicly available information. This would divert resources away from requests for information that would not otherwise already be in the public domain. It would cause detriment to Homes England's ability to promptly deal with requests under FOIA.

Therefore, after careful consideration we have concluded that at this time, the balance of the public interest favours the non-disclosure.

#### 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 we can advise that the information will be available via the following link: [Get information about property and land - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk). The title number for the site in your request is ON164883. The application has been registered and is currently 'pending'.

#### 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)

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.



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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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