



Homes  
England

Date: 23 August 2021

Our Ref: RFI3560

Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: [infogov@homesengland.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@homesengland.gov.uk)

Making homes happen

██████████  
By Email Only

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

Dear ██████████

**RE: Request for Information – RFI3560**

Thank you for your request for information which was processed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You requested the following information:

*I would like to enquire as to (1) how many dwellings that have received an A3, B1 or B2 rating (on the EWS1 form) were purchased under the Help to Buy scheme, (2) how many of those subsequently attempted to wholly or partially redeem the equity loan, and (3) how many of those redemptions were successful and how many denied. Timeframe: since the EWS1 form was originally introduced until today's date.*

**Response**

We can confirm that Homes England does not hold the information detailed in your request.

To conclude that the information is not held, we have searched with our Help to Buy 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 the following:

***(1) how many dwellings that have received an A3, B1 or B2 rating (on the EWS1 form) were purchased under the Help to Buy scheme*** – we can confirm that this level of data is not held in respect to ratings.

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**(2) how many of those subsequently attempted to wholly or partially redeem the equity loan** – we only hold redemption data volume for all Help to Buy loans, we do not split this down into subsections of what form of equity loans are received.

**(3) how many of those redemptions were successful and how many denied** – we can confirm that we only report on all Help to Buy loans redeemed and do not report on partial or denied redemptions.

### **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.

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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