



Homes
England

Date: 14 September 2021

Our Ref: RFI3573

Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

Making homes happen

By Email Only

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

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Request for Information – RFI3573

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 am making enquiries with regard to the former Royal Manor Arts College, Weston Road, Portland. Dorset. DT5 2RS.

The property was acquired for the development of housing many years back. Since then the trees, shrubs and weeds planted within the campus have never been pruned, cut back, removed or cleared. As such they are, now, spilling over onto the surrounding pathways and roads. The rubbish in them (including rotting meat, vegetables etc and human detrius) is giving off noxious odours not very pleasant for those who live nearby. Strangely enough, the majority of the grass has been mown on a regular basis.

*Could you, please let me know;
Who is responsible for this work?
When, if ever, the development will go ahead?
Who is footing the bill for the security?
How much has the Security cost so far?*

Lastly, will you give me details as to how I can contact the Housing Minister.

Response

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

Who is responsible for this work?

We can confirm that Homes England are responsible for the Estate Management of this site.

When, if ever, the development will go ahead?

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

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To conclude that the information is not held, we have searched with our Development 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 Homes England have secured outline planning consent for a residential scheme and are still in the process of appointing a development partner. The development partner will then need to secure reserved matters planning consent before development of the site can commence. The planning application and other documentation are/will be available to view on the Council's planning portal via the following link using reference WP/19/00919/OUT: [Planning application search - dorsetforyou.com \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](#).

Who is footing the bill for the security?

We can confirm that Homes England are responsible for the security of the site.

How much has the Security cost so far?

We can confirm that, to date, the security cost from April 2018 is circa £600,000.

Lastly, will you give me details as to how I can contact the Housing Minister.

The Rt Hon Christopher Pincher is the current Minister for Housing. To contact the Minister directly you can submit a request via the following link: [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government | Contact us form](#)

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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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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