



Homes
England

Date: 19 October 2021

Our Ref: RFI3629

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 – RFI3629

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:

RE: in relation to funding from Homes England to BCHA (Bournemouth Churches Housing Association) for the purchase and provision of a new homeless shelter in Yeovil, Somerset.

<https://www.somersetlive.co.uk/news/somerset-news/council-grants-nearly-400000-towards-5487973>

The background is that we are a residents group who are opposed to the proposed location of the new Housing facility to be provided by BCHA who we do not believe are fit to manage their current facility and therefore not fit to manage a new expanded facility which will have a detrimental effect on a residential area of the town and the residents of the facility.

The FOI request is as follows

Provision of any information, communications that has been passed internally within Home England that pertains to the decision being made to award this funding to BCHA for the purchase of a new facility within Yeovil to replace their current Pathways facility.

Provision of any information, communications (that can be provided) that has been passed between the two parties BCHA and Homes England's in relation to the application and approval of the funding for a new facility within Yeovil to replace their current Pathways facility.

Provision of any information, communications (that can be provided) that has been passed between the two parties SSDC and Homes England's in relation to the application and approval of the funding for a new facility within Yeovil to replace their current Pathways facility.

Details of the approved funds, full details of the purpose of these funds and any conditions attached to these funds and the purchasing of the new facility.

Any due diligence carried out by Homes England in relation to the granting of this fund to BCHA

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Dates of all the above to be included with any documents provided.

Additionally it would be great if I could speak with someone in relation to this to understand the criteria that has allowed this to be approved, from the residents investigations into this we see no tangible benefits of this investment to either the customers of BCHA (those in need of homes) or the residents of the area it will be affecting. If anyone was willing to speak with me around this funding it would be very much appreciated?

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 Affordable Housing (funding) 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 not awarded funding to BCHA for a new homelessness facility in Yeovil to replace their current facility.

You may wish to contact the Local Authority who may hold information.

Regarding your request to speak to a member of Homes England staff regarding this funding, as there has been no funding awarded we have not provided this. However, we can advise that any general enquiries can be processed by our enquiries team via: enquiries@homesengland.gov.uk / 0300 1234 500.

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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Homes England – 6th Floor



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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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