



Homes  
England

Date: 18 July 2022

Our Ref: RFI3942

Tel: 0300 1234 500

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

Making homes happen

[REDACTED]  
By Email Only

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

Dear [REDACTED]

**RE: Request for Information – RFI3942**

Thank you for your recent email, which was processed under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

You requested the following information:

*(1) Please provide all information held about any site visit or prospective site visit of the planning committee of South Cambridgeshire District Council conducted or discussed in relation to Northstowe between 2018 and today. (This request specifically includes, but is not limited to, any emails asking for or arranging any such site visit.)*

*(2) Please list the dates of all site visits actually conducted by any officer(s) and/or member(s) of South Cambridgeshire District Council to Northstowe Phases 2, 3A, or 3B between 2018 and today. For each site visit, please describe the areas visited.*

**Response**

We can confirm that Homes England does hold some of the information detailed in your request. We will address each of your questions in turn.

*(1) Please provide all information held about any site visit or prospective site visit of the planning committee of South Cambridgeshire District Council conducted or discussed in relation to Northstowe between 2018 and today. (This request specifically includes, but is not limited to, any emails asking for or arranging any such site visit.)*

**Regulation 12(4)(a) – Information not Held**

Under regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, Homes England may refuse to disclose information if the requested information is not held by that public authority.

OFFICIAL



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When relying on Regulation 12(4)(a), Homes England must also advise details of any other public authority to whom the requestor could redirect their request to, and in accordance with this we can advise that you submit a Freedom of Information Request to South Cambridgeshire District Council via the below link.

[Freedom of information \(FOI\) requests - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\) - https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/access-to-information/freedom-of-information-foi-requests/](https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/access-to-information/freedom-of-information-foi-requests/)

Regulation 9(1) provides that an authority must provide advice and assistance to applicants and in accordance with this we can advise that the EIR only covers recorded information held by a public authority and does not oblige that authority to respond to questions where the answer to that question is not contained in recorded information.

However, we can advise Homes England does not hold any recorded information about any site visit or prospective site visit of the planning committee of South Cambridgeshire District Council conducted or discussed in relation to Northstowe between 2018 and today. It must be recognised that there are parts of Northstowe not within the ownership or control of Homes England and/or there are parts which are publicly accessible.

***(2) Please list the dates of all site visits actually conducted by any officer(s) and/or member(s) of South Cambridgeshire District Council to Northstowe Phases 2, 3A, or 3B between 2018 and today.***

We can confirm that various officers and members of South Cambridgeshire District Council have visited Northstowe Phases 2, 3A and 3B on a number of occasions since 2018. We can advise that some of the dates include; 7 August 2018, 30 August 2018, 6 November 2018, 10 April 2019, 19 July 2019, 24 January 2021 and 15 November 2021.

***For each site visit, please describe the areas visited.***

#### Regulation 12(4)(a) – Information not Held

Under regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, Homes England may refuse to disclose information if the requested information is not held by that public authority.

When relying on Regulation 12(4)(a), Homes England must also advise details of any other public authority to whom the requestor could redirect their request to, and in accordance with this we can advise that you submit a Freedom of Information Request to South Cambridgeshire District Council via the above link.

Regulation 9(1) provides that an authority must provide advice and assistance to applicants and in accordance with this we can advise that the EIR only covers recorded information held by a public authority and does not oblige that authority to respond to questions where the answer to that question is not contained in recorded information.



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### **Right to make Representations**

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 a reconsideration of our response (Internal Review). You can make this representation 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 reconsideration must be made in writing, explain why you wish to appeal, and be received within 40 working days of the date of this response (Reg 11(2)). Failure to meet this criteria may lead to your request being refused.

Upon receipt, your request for reconsideration 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