



Homes
England

Date: 3 November 2022

Our Ref: RFI4088

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 ██████████

RE: Request for Information – RFI4088

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

Your request was a clarified request following our response to your previous request, referenced RFI4000, which is available on our disclosure log on the following link:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1109269/RFI4000 - National Regeneration Agency Roles Spend.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1109269/RFI4000_-_National_Regeneration_Agency_Roles_Spend.pdf)

You requested the following information:

I would like to make a freedom of information request in order to find out how much was spent on the National Regeneration Agency roles undertaken as part of the work of Homes England and, if time allows, its predecessor the Homes and Communities Agency (the national regeneration agency roles are likely to predominantly relate to land acquisition and assembly and major development projects).

I would like yearly figures showing how much was spent, in aggregate, on key activities, in each financial year from 2002-3 up until the present. I do not require information at the level of individual schemes.

Response

We can inform you that we do hold the information in scope of your request. However, to comply with your request would exceed the appropriate limit for the cost of compliance. We therefore rely on section 12, exemption where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit under the FOIA.

The full text of the legislation can be found on the following link and we have quoted section 12 below for ease.

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

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Section 12 - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

(2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.

(3) In subsections (1) and (2) "the appropriate limit" means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.

(4) The Minister for the Cabinet Office may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority:

(a) by one person, or

(b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign, the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.

(5) The Minister for the Cabinet Office may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated.

We have considered the current wording of your request and in its current scope we have determined that to establish where all elements of the information is held, to locate the information, retrieving the information and extracting the information would exceed the appropriate limit in terms of timeframes.

Under the terms of the Act we are not obliged to provide any information compiled in the course of our searches prior to concluding section 12 is engaged.

Advice and Assistance

In compliance with the Section 45 Code of Practice (Paragraph 2.10) and to offer advice and assistance under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we have explained why the cost limit is exceeded in relation to the information in scope of your request. We have also provided further information to assist you in submitting any subsequent request that would not exceed the cost limit, and provided further information appropriate to your request.

Firstly, we would advise that the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) (trading under Homes England) was established in 2008 and therefore information would not be held in relation to the named activities for HCA from 2002.

In relation to information from 2008 to present, in our response to RFI4000, we advised that Homes England's focus as an organisation over recent years has not been on regeneration, and therefore none of our systems or reporting functions allow us to search against or collate information in relation to "regeneration". As in the case of RFI4000, there are in excess of 17,000 files in our internal filing system that would have to be manually checked and reviewed



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to ascertain whether the files related to regeneration or other agency activities. Any files then identified would have to be reviewed and any data related to funding amounts extracted and collated.

However, we are able to advise that our Annual Reports do provide high-level funding amounts in relation to our specific programmes. If any future request were to seek information naming specific programmes or schemes, we would expect to be able to provide this without the request exceeding the cost limit. Furthermore, it may be that some of the information you are seeking is contained within the Annual Reports.

Homes England's Annual Reports can be found on the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homes-englands-annual-reports-financial-statements>

Our operating segments note on page 159 of the 2021/2022 annual report may assist you in naming programmes/schemes and understanding our remit in regards to regeneration.

In terms of additional helpful information, the National Archives will hold the English Partnerships (EP)/Urban Regeneration Agency(URA) annual reports from the 1990s and 2000s. URA/EP was one of our predecessor bodies.

Please note that due to the broad scope of your request we cannot confirm that any further request would not also exceed the section 12 cost limit at this time.

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

The Information Governance Team
Homes England – 6th 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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