



Homes
England

Date: 11 January 2023

Our Ref: RFI4183

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 – RFI4183

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 know

- a. up to 099/12/2022 how much in shared ownership grants has been awarded to Estuary housing*
- b. in accordance with homes England policy what action do you take in the event that a housing association lies on their application form when procuring shared ownership grant funding (contract fraud)*
- c. i would like a copy of the standard application form that is submitted by HA in order to apply for funding*
- d. I would like a copy of the application form submitted by estuary housing for a grant for shared ownership at 365 south street, Romford, RM1 2BP*
- e. has home england ever been made aware of possible fraud by estuary housing while applying for shared ownership grants and what was the outcome*

Response

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

- a. up to 099/12/2022 how much in shared ownership grants has been awarded to Estuary housing**
 - 11-15 programme - £400,000 total for Shared Ownership
 - 15-18 programme - £725,000 total for Shared Ownership
 - 16-21 programme - £1,980,000 total for Shared Ownership
 - 21-26 programme – none to date

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b. *in accordance with homes England policy what action do you take in the event that a housing association lies on their application form when procuring shared ownership grant funding (contract fraud)*

All schemes which are accepted for funding are subject to the annual Compliance Audit programme. This programme provides assurance that organisations receiving grant have met all of Homes England's requirements and funding conditions, and have properly exercised their responsibilities as set out in the [Capital Funding Guide \(CFG\)](#). Standardised checks are made by provider-appointed independent auditors on an agreed sample of schemes that have received Homes England funding under current and earlier affordable housing programmes. Compliance Audit does not reduce the responsibility of the provider and Homes England to ensure that the costs in any claim for grant are appropriate and have been properly incurred.

c. *i would like a copy of the standard application form that is submitted by HA in order to apply for funding*

We can inform you that we do hold the information that you have requested. However, we rely on section 21, exemption where information is available to the applicant elsewhere.

The full text of the legislation can be found on the following link:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/21>

Advice and Assistance

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Section 16 of the FOIA. Therefore, we can advise that all applications for funding are submitted through the Homes England Investment Management System (IMS). Guidance on how to bid and to see the screens that a provider would be required to complete can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/investment-management-system-guidance-documents#to-2026-guidance>.

d. *I would like a copy of the application form submitted by estuary housing for a grant for shared ownership at 365 south street , Romford , RM1 2BP*

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 Shared Ownership 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 advise that the address in your request is in the London Borough of Havering. Homes England does not operate in the greater London area which falls under the remit of the Greater



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London Authority (GLA). We advise you submit a request directly to the GLA for this information via: <https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>.

e. has home england ever been made aware of possible fraud by estuary housing while applying for shared ownership grants and what was the outcome

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 Shared Ownership 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 advise that there have been no fraud investigations into Estuary Housing.

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.



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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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