



Homes  
England

Date: 19 January 2023

Our Ref: RFI4172

Tel: 0300 1234 500

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

Making homes happen

██████████  
By Email Only

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

Dear ██████████

**RE: Request for Information – RFI4172**

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:

*Can you please tell me how many people are on the Help to Buy Register who:*

*Need a home in Wokingham Borough? And*

*Need a home in ether Shinfield, Spencers Wood or Three Mile Cross (these may be categorised as Shinfield Parish within Wokingham Borough?)*

*Can you also let me know what size of home people are seeking?*

*Additionally, can you tell be how many homes have had their purchase supported by Help to Buy in Wokingham Borough in each financial year?*

*If the information is available, can you also provide this information for Shinfield, Spencers Wood and Three Mile Cross (which as above may have been categorised as Shinfield Parish within Wokingham Borough?)*

*Can you also provide a breakdown by property size for the information on past home purchases using Help to Buy?*

**Response**

We can confirm that we do hold some of the requested information. Some of the information you have requested is already publicly available and therefore for clarity we have addressed each of your questions in turn.

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**Can you please tell me how many people are on the Help to Buy Register who:**

**Need a home in Wokingham Borough? And**

**Need a home in ether Shinfield, Spencers Wood or Three Mile Cross (these may be categorised as Shinfield Parish within Wokingham Borough?**

**Can you also let me know what size of home people are seeking?**

We can confirm that we do hold this information, which is enclosed as the following Annexes:

Annex A – Wokingham

Annex B – Shinfield

Annex C – Spencers Wood

Annex D – Three Mile Cross

**Additionally, can you tell be how many homes have had their purchase supported by Help to Buy in Wokingham Borough in each financial year?**

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 and we have quoted section 21 below for ease.  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/21>

21 - Information accessible to applicant by other means.

(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)—

- (a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and
- (b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2)(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme.



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#### Advice and Assistance

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Section 16 of the FOIA. This information is available within the Official Statistics, which is summarised by Local Authority (LA) for each financial year. The information can be found in **Table 1 – LA** from the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/help-to-buy-equity-loan-scheme-data-to-30-june-2022>

***If the information is available, can you also provide this information for Shinfield, Spencers Wood and Three Mile Cross (which as above may have been categorised as Shinfield Parish within Wokingham Borough?)***

We can advise that our reporting system does not allow us to search below Local Authority level by name, and therefore we are unable to provide the information in this part of your request.

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>

In order to provide advice and Assistance we can advise that we may be able to provide this information in a future request for information if a list of postcodes were provided that you wished us to search against.

***Can you also provide a breakdown by property size for the information on past home purchases using Help to Buy?***

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. This Information is available within the Official Statistics, which is summarised by LA and **Property Type** for each financial year. The information can be found in **Release\_Table\_gb** from the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/help-to-buy-equity-loan-scheme-data-to-30-june-2022>.

#### 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](mailto:infogov@homesengland.gov.uk)



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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.

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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