



Homes
England

Making homes happen

Date: 6 February 2023

Our Ref: RFI4180

Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

████████████████████
By Email Only

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

Dear ██████████

RE: Request for Information – RFI4180

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:

Please can I request the following under a freedom of information/EIR 2004 request -

- 1. Please can you confirm if you have carried out any research on the waste water/sewage infrastructure and how much it can cope with in terms of new builds developments?*
- 2. Please can you confirm if you have received any letters/correspondence from the water companies in regards to the capacity of the waste water/sewage infrastructure?*
- 3. Does the government have any research on the waste water/sewage infrastructure and its capacity and age to cope with new builds, and how this may effect human health, and the environment? Especially air quality and water quality?*
- 4. Does the government in its levelling up plans, consider that the waste water/sewage infrastructure will not be able to cope and funding will be needed to develop the capacity for future house builds and planning developments?*
- 5. Has the government carried out a risk and threat assessment on the impact to the environment on new builds and how the infrastructure will not be able to cope leading to human health problems and environmental damage?*
- 6. Have the water companies requested any funding to update the aging and outdated waste water infrastructure? Please can I see the government response if so?*
- 7. Have you considered the impact on the aging sewage treatment plants, and the effect that new builds will have on the environment, and human health?*

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8. *Have you put forward changes to the legislation which will allow the water companies to be a legal consultee on all future house builds and planning developments?*
9. *What guidance have you given to councils in regards to the waste water sewage infrastructure? Do you ask them to consider this when considering new sites? Does the environment play a role in this decision making process and what level of importance is it given?*
10. *Have you considered the extra chemicals from waste water/sewage that will be created and sent to already overwhelmed sewage treatment plants?*

Response

We can confirm that Homes England does not hold the information detailed in your request. This is because there is no legal or business reason to do so.

To conclude that the information is not held, we have searched with our Infrastructure Grants 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 Homes England is not responsible for making housing or development policy. This is the responsibility of our sponsor department, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). Homes England is only responsible for administering funding and supporting development partners as set out in our strategic plan.

Further information on Homes England's remit can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/homes-england/about>.

We advise that you submit your request to DLUHC via the following:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-levelling-up-housing-and-communities>.

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.



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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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