



Homes England

Date: 22 February 2023

Our Ref: RFI4219

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 – RFI4219

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 could you let me have anonymous data concerning shared ownership and rent to buy ownership applications.

Please list the following criteria for each registered applicant listed on your database in Colchester

<i>Database field</i>	<i>Info requested</i>
<i>Date of application</i>	<i>Please State</i>
<i>Property Type Required</i>	<i>Please State</i>
<i>Number of Bedrooms</i>	<i>Please State</i>
<i>Scheme interested in</i>	<i>Please State</i>
<i>Homes interested in</i>	<i>Please State</i>
<i>Town Interested In</i>	<i>Please State</i>
<i>Local Authority Interested In</i>	<i>XXXXXXXXX</i>
<i>Application</i>	<i>Single/Joint</i>
<i>Application Income Total</i>	<i>Please State</i>
<i>Application Savings Total</i>	<i>Please State</i>
<i>Application Benefits Total</i>	<i>Please State</i>
<i>C1 Situation</i>	<i>Please State</i>
<i>C1 Current Town</i>	<i>Please State</i>
<i>C1 Age</i>	<i>Please State</i>
<i>C1 & C2 Disability</i>	<i>Yes/no</i>
<i>C1 & C2 Wheelchair</i>	<i>Yes/no</i>



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Response

We can confirm that we do hold some of the requested information, which is enclosed with this response as Annex A. Please note that some columns either contain missing data or no data at all, in particular from columns M to S which relates to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I) data. We can advise that this is because those database fields are not mandatory for customers to answer therefore where they are blank, customers have opted not to answer. We can further advise that some of those fields are blank if they are sole applications therefore a response for the second applicant is optional.

In relation to the requested Database field "Homes Interested in"

We can inform you that we do hold the information that you have requested. However, we rely on Section 40 (2) of the FOIA to withhold the information from disclosure.

Section 40 – Personal information

We are withholding information on the grounds that it constitutes third party personal data and therefore engages section 40(2) of the FOIA.

To disclose personal data, such as names, contact details, addresses, email addresses and personal opinions could lead to the identification of third parties and would breach one or more of the data protection principles.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption which means that we do not need to consider the public interest in disclosure. Once it is established that the information is personal data of a third party and release would breach one or more of the data protection principles, then the exemption is engaged.

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

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/40>

In relation to the requested Database field "Date of application"

We can confirm that Homes England does not hold the information detailed in this part of your request.

To conclude that the information is not held, we have searched with our Agent who holds the information on behalf of Homes England. The Agent has confirmed that this field is not captured in their reporting systems and therefore we are unable to provide this information.

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>



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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.

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

OFFICIAL