



Homes
England

Date: 29 March 2023

Our Ref: RFI4145

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 – RFI4145

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:

- 1. Your reply includes no information about the grant agreement Homes England inherited from Yorkshire Forward, namely monies granted to CBMDC for the purchase of the 3 college sites in Keighley and yet you do reveal the monies received from CBMDC for the sale of The Harold Town College site, 1 of the 3 sites covered by the grant agreement. Does Homes England now stand legally as the successor to Yorkshire Forward? If yes, please disclose the monies advanced to CBMDC to buy the 3 College sites in Keighley.*
- 2. Can you please clarify that the site you refer to as "Harold Street site" is in fact the Harold Town College site. Please also clarify why CBMDC has paid Homes England the £224,000 it realised from the sale of the land if not under the terms of the grant agreement inherited from Yorkshire Forward and disclose the amount of money given to CBMDC. Please also itemise the amount to explain, if you can, why the price on the deeds is £207,000 but the remittance is £224,000 and where the additional £17,000 came from.*
- 3. The Yorkshire Forward contract which Homes England inherited and which it is enforcing by accepting the £224,00 from the sale of the Harold Town site gave CBMDC monies to buy 3 sites from Keighley College. Please disclose the individual amounts granted to buy each site and whether any conditions were placed on CBMDC to realise minimum amounts from the sale of each of the sites.*
- 4. CBMDC is insisting that if something isn't built on the land on the corner of North Street and Cavendish Street (the green space) Homes England will claw back all the money granted at the outset by Yorkshire Forward. Is this Homes England's intention?*

For clarity, this was a subsequent request following our response to RFI4058.

Response

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

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Does Homes England now stand legally as the successor to Yorkshire Forward? If yes, please disclose the monies advanced to CBMDC to buy the 3 College sites in Keighley.

We can confirm that Homes England is the legal successor to 'Yorkshire Forward' fund. However, the payments you reference took place before the transfer of the asset to Homes England and we would not have been involved.

Can you please clarify that the site you refer to as "Harold Street site" is in fact the Harold Town College site.

We can confirm that the site referred to as *Harold Site Street* is the Harold Town Building, Chesham Street, Keighley, BD21 4LG.

Please also clarify why CBMDC has paid Homes England the £224,000 it realised from the sale of the land if not under the terms of the grant agreement inherited from Yorkshire Forward and disclose the amount of money given to CBMDC.

Homes England received payment from CBMDC in March 2017 for a sum of £224,000 including VAT which is recorded as relating to disposal of the Harold Street site.

Please also itemise the amount to explain, if you can, why the price on the deeds is £207,000 but the remittance is £224,000 and where the additional £17,000 came from.

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 Contingent Assets & Liabilities 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 confirm that the payment you refer to was made in 2017 and we do not hold an itemisation of the amounts.

Please disclose the individual amounts granted to buy each site and whether any conditions were placed on CBMDC to realise minimum amounts from the sale of each of the sites.

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 Contingent Assets & Liabilities 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.



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The full text of section 1 in the legislation can be found here:

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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 confirm that the agreement that Homes England holds does not contain any information in relation to this as it does not go into that level of detail.

CBMDC is insisting that if something isn't built on the land on the corner of North Street and Cavendish Street (the green space) Homes England will claw back all the money granted at the outset by Yorkshire Forward. Is this Homes England's intention?

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 Contingent Assets & Liabilities 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 confirm that we have not had any correspondence from CBMDC in relation to this. We therefore advise that you contact Bradford Council directly via the following link:

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/open-data/freedom-of-information/freedom-of-information/>

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

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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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