



Homes
England

Date: 29 March 2023

Our Ref: RFI4258

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 – RFI4258

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:

*How many affordable housing projects in London and the south east have you gave funding to in the last five years?
And how many are you likely to give funding to in the future?*

Response

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

affordable housing projects in London

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 for Homes England to do so.

To conclude that the information is not held, we have searched with our Affordable Housing 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>

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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 Homes England does not hold recoded information for the London area. We can confirm that the Greater London Authority (GLA) are responsible for the affordable homes programme and the allocation of grant funding under this programme in London. We therefore advise that you submit a request for information to the GLA via the following link: <https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>

How many affordable housing projects in the south-east have you gave funding to in the last five years?

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.

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 all this data is available via our published national statistics which can be accessed via the below links. We advise that you look at the MS Excel Spreadsheet documents and the tabs as described below will show the data for the required financial year.



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<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/housing-statistics-1-april-2021-to-31-march-2022>

- Table 2a – April 2021 to March 2022
- Table 2b – April 2020 to March 2021
- Table 2c – April 2019 to March 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/housing-statistics-1-april-2018-to-31-march-2019>

- Table 2a – April 2018 to March 2019
- Table 2b – April 2017 to March 2018

And how many are you likely to give funding to in the future?

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 for Homes England to do so.

To conclude that the information is not held, we have searched with our Affordable Housing 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 do not hold any forecasted information based on existing allocations of funding as this contravenes the national statistics protocols. Further to this, we cannot predict how many applications for Affordable Home Ownership schemes will be submitted.

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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