



Homes  
England

Date: 23 June 2023

Our Ref: RFI4364, RFI4365

Tel: 0300 1234 500

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

The Housing and Regeneration Agency

████████████████████  
By Email Only

Information Governance Team  
Homes England  
Windsor House  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
42-50 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0TL  
United Kingdom

Dear ██████████

**RE: Request for Information – RFI4364, RFI4365**

Thank you for your requests for information which were processed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You requested the following information:

RFI4364

*Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to request the following information with regard to the Homes England; Multidisciplinary technical services framework 2019 to 2023.:*

- *Annual spending per year, for the past four financial broken down by:*
- *By Lot or Technical Service*
  - *Project and cost management*
  - *Development monitoring*
  - *Corporate risk management and governance*
  - *Technical and site investigation*
  - *Engineering design*
  - *Architecture and landscape design*
  - *Planning*
  - *Consultation*
  - *Masterplanning and urban design*
  - *Construction design and management (CDM)*
  - *Property advisory services*
  - *General services*
- *By Local Authority or third party (Buyer) if not Homes England.*
- *By Supplier or Contractor (provider)*
- *Split by direct award or competitive (open) tender*

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- *Split by fixed price lump sum, target cost, and cost reimbursable*

*I would like you to provide this information in an Excel spreadsheet.*

## RFI4365

*Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to request the following information with regard to the Homes England; Multidisciplinary technical services framework 2019 to 2023.:*

- *Hourly and day rates by grade by year, for past four financial years, into the following category:*
  - *Grouped by Supplier or Contractor (provider)*
  - *Supplier or Contractor (provider) information to be redacted/removed.*
  - *By Lot or Technical Service*
- *Project and cost management*
- *Development monitoring*
- *Corporate risk management and governance*
- *Technical and site investigation*
- *Engineering design*
- *Architecture and landscape design*
- *Planning*
- *Consultation*
- *Masterplanning and urban design*
- *Construction design and management (CDM)*
- *Property advisory services*
- *General services*

*I would like you to provide this information in Excel spreadsheet.*

## Response

We can confirm that we do hold information that falls within the scope of your requests. However, to comply with your requests would exceed the appropriate limit for the cost of compliance. We therefore rely on section 12, exemption where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit under the FOIA.

The full text of the legislation can be found on the following link and we have quoted section 12 below for ease:

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



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### Section 12 - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

(2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.

(3) In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.

(4) The Minister for the Cabinet Office may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority:

- (a) by one person, or
- (b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign, the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.

(5) The Minister for the Cabinet Office may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated.

### Aggregation of Requests – Section 12(4)

Where a public authority is estimating the cost of compliance with a request, it can take into account the cost of complying with two or more requests if the following conditions laid out in Section 5 of the Fees Regulations are met:

- The requests are made by the same person
- The requests are made for similar information
- The requests are received by the public authority within any period of 60 working days

We have considered the current wording of your requests and in their current scope have determined that to establish where all the elements of the information is held, to locate the information, to retrieve the information and extract the information would exceed the appropriate limit in terms of timeframes.

Under the terms of the act we are not obliged to provide any information compiled in the course of our searches prior to concluding section 12 is engaged.



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### **Advice and Assistance**

We proceeded to work with the responsible Information Owners for this request to determine what information was held. The information requested consists of data which is not available to report on and would therefore require the Information Owners to manually review each record to locate, retrieve and extract the relevant information.

As an example, there were 2,049 multi-disciplinary instructions and at an estimated time of 3 minutes to review each record to determine the procurement route, type of cost and Other Public Sector Body, this alone would equate to more than 102 hours and would exceed the appropriate limit for compliance.

In compliance with the Section 45 Code of Practice (Paragraph 14) and to offer advice and assistance under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, you may wish to consider narrowing the scope of your request.

Please note that due to the broad scope of your request, we cannot confirm that any further request would not also exceed the section 12 cost limit at this time.

### **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)

Information Governance Team  
Homes England  
Windsor House  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
42-50 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0TL  
United Kingdom

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.

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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