

Date: 10 October 2023 Our Ref: RFI4486 Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk



Dear

# RE: Request for Information – RFI4486

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 much affordable housing have you allowed to be built in London and the south east? Why are you against modular housing?

### Response

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

Section 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.

6<sup>th</sup> Floor Windsor House 42 - 50 Victoria Street, Westminster London, SW1H 0TL





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(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 affordable housing statistics relating to London is held and published by the Greater London Authority (GLA).

The GLA publish full statistics regarding affordable housing on their website pages which you can find by following this link:

Affordable Housing statistics | London City Hall

If you have any further information requests relating to affordable housing in London, please visit their Freedom of Information webpage which explains how to submit a request to them:

Freedom of information | London City Hall

Similarly, Homes England also publish affordable housing statistics (excluding London) on our webpages, including a breakdown of constructions by region. For example, see page 10 of 'Housing Statistics June 2023' which you can find via this link:

Housing statistics - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

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In regard to modular housing, Homes England are fully supportive of modular housing construction, commonly referred to as Modern Methods of Construction (MMC). While Homes England do not currently report full statistics on MMC, we intend to in the future. We have communicated our commitment and explained our approach to MMC publicly. For example, see page 46 of 'Annual Report and Financial Statements':

Homes-England-Annual-Report-and-Financial-Statements-2022-to-2023.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)

In addition, you might be interested to read this recent article by our CEO in which our MMC ambitions and delivery goals are explored:

<u>Inside Housing - News - Homes England exceeding its target for delivery of modular housing, chief</u> executive says

### **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

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

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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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