

Date: 1 December 2023 Our Ref: RFI4537 Tel: 0300 1234 500 Email: <u>infogov@homesengland.gov.uk</u>

By Email Only

Dear

RE: Request for Information – RFI4537

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:

What is the point of Homes England? Do you actually help homes to be built? We are in a National wide housing crisis. How many affordable homes were / will be built in Hertfordshire and London in 2022 and 2023

Response

We can confirm that we do hold some of the requested information. We can inform you that in Hertfordshire there were a total of **1425** completions for the financial years you specified in your request.

We do not hold information relating to the current financial year (April 2023/March 2024) as this information is not available to us yet and nor do we hold information relating to the number of affordable homes that have been, or will be, built in London.

Please see the chart below for further details relating to completions in Hertfordshire:

Hertfordshire districts	April 2021/March 2022	April 2022/March 2023
Broxbourne	79	88
Dacorum	108	15

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East Hertfordshire	106	<5
Hertsmere	73	<5
North Hertfordshire	8	64
St. Albans	59	2
Stevenage	<5	<5
Three Rivers	56	<5
Watford	207	249
Welwyn Hatfield	100	209

Please note that for any district where there were less than 5 properties completed we have obscured this information under section 40 FOIA, as this could lead to the identification of individuals in some circumstances.

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

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 are not responsible for building homes in London. We recommend contacting the Greater London Authority for this information:

https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedominformation

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If you are interested in finding out more about our work, you might find our Strategic Plan of interest. It details what we do and who we are. You can access the Strategic Plan via this web page:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homes-england-strategic-plan-2023-to-2028

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 6th 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.

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:

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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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