



# Homes England

The Housing and Regeneration Agency

Date: 8 April 2024

Our Ref: RFI4667

Tel: 0300 1234 500

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

[REDACTED]  
By Email Only

Dear [REDACTED]

## **RE: Request for Information – RFI4667**

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. The estimated total number of acres of land that you own.**
- 2. The estimated total number of acres that you own which are not in operational use.**
- 3. The annual spending on managing and maintaining your property estate in the financial year 2022/23. Please provide a breakdown.**
- 4. The number of golf courses you currently own.**
- 5. The number of farms you currently own.**
- 6. The number of commercial buildings you own. If possible please provide a breakdown by category - such as shops, offices, restaurants, pubs, hotels.**
- 7. The number of empty homes you currently own.**
- 8. The number of empty buildings you currently own that are not homes.**

## **Response**

We can inform you that we do hold the information that you have requested. However, to comply with your request 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.

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

0300 1234 500  
@HomesEngland  
[www.gov.uk/homes-england](http://www.gov.uk/homes-england)





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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>

### 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.

We have considered the current wording of your request and in its current scope we have determined that to establish where all elements of the information is held, to locate the information, retrieving the information and extracting 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**

In compliance with the Section 45 Code of Practice (Paragraph 2.10) 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.

In particular, Questions 4 and 6 would require our staff to manually search through records in order to ascertain the number of premises that fall into these categories. This is not a field of data we can presently search by on our systems. To be clear, the Questions 4 and 6 are:

**4. The number of golf courses you currently own.**

**6. The number of commercial buildings you own. If possible please provide a breakdown by category - such as shops, offices, restaurants, pubs, hotels.**

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.

## **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

6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Windsor House  
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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

