The Housing and Regeneration Agency



Date: 13 September 2024

Our Ref: RFI4865 Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk



Dear

RE: Request for Information – RFI4865

Thank you for your recent email, which was processed under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

You requested the following information:

From the inception of the Help to Build Scheme please could you confirm:

- a) The total number of formal offers advanced to provide a Help to Build loan once construction of a qualifying dwelling is completed:
- b) A breakdown of the numbers of formal offers advanced a) within London, and b) within England excluding London:
- c) The total number of offers that have been converted into a Help to Build loan being provided upon construction of a self-build dwelling being completed.

Response

Regulation 12(4)(a) – Information not Held

Under regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, Homes England may refuse to disclose information if the requested information is not held.

2nd Floor The Lumen St James Boulevard, Newcastle Helix Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 5BZ

0300 1234 500 @HomesEngland www.gov.uk/homes-england



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When relying on Regulation 12(4)(a), Homes England must also advise details of any other public authority to whom the requestor could redirect their request to, and in accordance with this we can advise that Homes England are the correct and only organisation relevant to this request.

Regulation 9(1) provides that an authority must provide advice and assistance to applicants and in accordance with this we can advise that no equity loans have been issued by Homes England under the Help to Build scheme. Help to Build equity loans are only drawn down when the build is complete. It can take up to two years from application to the drawing down of the Equity Loan. We have one case where an Offer in Principle has been issued, however we are awaiting the solicitors first undertaking to advance this case to a formal offer.

Right to make Representations

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 a reconsideration of our response (Internal Review). You can make this representation by writing to Homes England via the details below, quoting the reference number at the top of this letter.

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

The Information Governance Team Homes England 6th Floor Windsor House 42 - 50 Victoria Street London SW1H 0TL

Your request for reconsideration must be made in writing, explain why you wish to appeal, and be received within 40 working days of the date of this response (Reg 11(2)). Failure to meet this criteria may lead to your request being refused.

Upon receipt, your request for reconsideration 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

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