

Date: 27 September 2024 Our Ref: RFI4875 Tel: 0300 1234 500 Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

By Email Only

Dear

## RE: Request for Information – RFI4875

Thank you for your request for information which was processed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

You requested the following information:

I wish to know why did MOD suspend home for England scheme between 2017 - 2022???

How much money MOD paid you for the damages between 2017 - 2022 (after suspending this plan)???

#### **Response**

We can confirm that we do hold some of the requested information. We will address each point in turn.

## I wish to know why did MOD suspend home for England scheme between 2017 - 2022???

In responding to this question it is being assumed that the reference to "home for England scheme" means The Partnering Arrangement between Homes England and Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO). This commenced in September 2018 with 7 planned closure sites factored into it by Ministry of Defence (MoD). One of the sites was transferred to Homes England in March 2020. The Partnering Arrangement is not currently operational because the status of most of the sites changed. They have now either been retained for military use or their originally scheduled closure date has been extended such that it would not be efficient use of resources to continue the workstreams associated with their closure and redevelopment. In agreement with DIO they have therefore been withdrawn from the Partnering Arrangement.

2<sup>nd</sup> 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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# How much money MOD paid you for the damages between 2017 - 2022 (after suspending this plan)???

We can confirm that Homes England does not hold the information detailed in your request.

To conclude that the information is not held, we have searched with our Acquisitions and Partnering team who would have the requested information if held.

The FOIA does not oblige a public authority to create information to answer a request if the requested information is not held. The duty under section 1(1) is only to provide the recorded information held.

The full text of section 1 in the legislation can be found here:

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/1

## 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 there is no requirement on MoD to pay "damages" to Homes England. However, there are provisions for the repayment of eligible Project Expenditure incurred by Homes England when sites are either finally sold off or are withdrawn from the Partnering Arrangement. As at 31 July 2024 the sum of £2,544,390 Project Expenditure has been repaid.

## **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

The Information Governance Team Homes England 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor The Lumen St James Boulevard

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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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