

Date: 21 February 2025

Our Ref: RFI4996

Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

By Email Only

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Request for Information – RFI4996

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:

Please provide information Homes England holds about the number of buyback requests shared owners made to registered providers over the last two financial years. Please provide the number of requests by provider.

If available, please also share information about the percentage of buyback requests that were approved.

We wrote to you on 24 January 2025 informing you that we required more time to consider the public interest in disclosure of the information, as we considered section 43(2) of the FOIA to be engaged. Having now considered the public interest, we have determined the balance favoured disclosure.

Response

We can confirm that Homes England does hold some information in regard to your request. Please be advised the information we hold is very limited.

We are able to confirm that the number of buyback requests made to providers is not information that Homes England would normally hold. Any such agreements are made at the discretion of the provider. The only limited circumstance in which Homes England would be approached by a provider would be for them to ask our permission to use some of their Recycled Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) to fund a request they have received.



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In these circumstances, the buyback of equity in a shared ownership home is what is called a '*permitted use*' of RCGF meaning that a provider requires our permission to use their RCGF for this purpose. We do not hold information on percentage of approved requests by the providers themselves.

The relevant permitted uses of RCGF are Equity Repurchase (specifically when a provider has used their RCGF to buy the full equity) and Downward Staircasing.

The information we hold is as follows:

Financial Year	Provider Name	No of requests
2022	Green Square Accord Limited	1
2022	Hastoe Housing Association Limited	1
2022	Lincolnshire Rural Housing Association Limited	1
2022	THT and L&Q Community Limited	1
2023	Moat Homes Limited	1
2023	The Swaythling Housing Society Limited	1
2024	Black Country Housing Group Limited	1
2024	Empowering People Inspiring Communities Limited	1
2024	Hastoe Housing Association Limited	1
2024	Home Group Limited	1
2024	Orbit Group Limited	1
2024	Orbit Housing Association Limited	1
2025	Southern Housing	1
2025	Livin Housing Ltd	1
2025	Sanctuary Housing Association	2
2025	Black Country Housing Group Limited	2
2025	Harrogate Housing Association Limited	1
2025	Advance Housing and Support Limited	1
	Total approved by Homes England	21

Please note the number of buyback approvals for 2025 may increase as the current financial year runs until 31 March 2025.

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

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www.gov.uk/homes-england

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Further details about the grant recovery is available online via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/capital-funding-guide/7-grant-recovery>

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

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.

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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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