



Homes
England

Date: 26 July 2024

Our Ref: RFI4819

Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

[REDACTED]
By Email Only

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Request for Information – RFI4819

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 could you provide the following information under the freedom of information act covering the last 24 months, or the most recent 24-month period recorded:

- 1. Has the department used agencies to recruit temporary/contractor staff? Please provide a breakdown of your answer to question 1, splitting the spend by job title/specialism.**
- 2. Has the department used agencies to recruit permanent staff? Please provide a breakdown of your answer to question 2, splitting the spend by job title/specialism.**
- 3. What frameworks do you have access to when hiring temporary/contractor staff?**
- 4. What frameworks do you have access to when hiring permanent staff?**
- 5. What recruitment managed services do you have in place for hiring temporary/contractor staff?**
- 6. What recruitment managed services do you have in place for hiring permanent staff?**
- 7. The contact name and contract details the person responsible for dealing with temporary/contractor recruitment?**
- 8. The contact name and contact details of the person responsible for dealing with permanent recruitment?**





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Response

We can confirm that we do hold some of the requested information. We will answer your questions in turn below:

1. Has the department used agencies to recruit temporary/contractor staff? Please provide a breakdown of your answer to question 1, splitting the spend by job title/specialism.

We can confirm we have used agencies to recruit temporary/contractor staff.

Section 21 - Information accessible to applicant by other means

In regard to staff costs, we can confirm that we do hold the information that you have requested. However, we rely on section 21 exemption, where information is available to the applicant elsewhere.

Please see the advice section below for assistance.

The full text of the legislation can be found on the following link:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/21>

Section 22 - Information intended for future publication

(1) Information is exempt information if:

- (a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),
- (b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and
- (c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).





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(2) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would involve the disclosure of any information (whether or not already recorded) which falls within subsection (1).

Section 22 is a qualified exemption. This means that in order to withhold information under this exemption, we must consider the public interest in disclosure.

Public Interest Test – Factors in favour of disclosure

- Homes England is compliant with the government agenda of transparency and recognises the benefit of publishing the information, particularly when it concerns how Homes England undertakes its work.

Public Interest Test – Factors in favour of non-disclosure

- The information will be publicly available in Homes England's Annual Report and Accounts on the gov.uk website. It is reasonable that a public authority does not divert resources where the information is readily available to the public. To disclose information via FOIA that will be available on our website would increase the likelihood of future requests being made under FOIA for similar publicly available information. This would divert resources away from requests for information that would not otherwise already be in the public domain. This would cause detriment to Homes England's ability to promptly deal with requests under FOIA.
- Releasing the information ahead of scheduled publication is not in line with accepted practices and releasing the information ahead of its scheduled publication date may allow third parties to gain an advantage in obtaining the information prior to general publication.
- As this information is due to be published soon, we consider there is a stronger interest in withholding this information until the intended publication date.

Therefore, after careful consideration we have concluded that at this time, the balance of the public interest favours the non-disclosure.

Section 40 – Personal information

In regard to the job titles of temporary/contractor staff, we can confirm to you that we do hold the information that you have requested. However, we rely on Section 40 (2) of the FOIA to withhold the information from disclosure.





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We are withholding information on the grounds that it constitutes third party personal data and therefore engages section 40(2) of the FOIA.

To disclose personal data, such as names, contact details, addresses, email addresses, and other personal details 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. In order to abide by this duty, we can confirm to you that all our overarching staff spending costs are published online as part of our financial statements.

You can access Homes England's recent financial statements using the following links:

[Homes England Annual Report and Financial Statements 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Homes England Annual Report and Financial Statements 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Please be advised you can find staff costs on **page 171** of the financial statement for 2022-2023 and **page 115** for 2021-2022.

We can also advise that we do not hold information relating to the specialism of temporary/contractor staff.

2. Has the department used agencies to recruit permanent staff? Please provide a breakdown of your answer to question 2, splitting the spend by job title/specialism.

We can confirm that we do not use agencies to recruit permanent staff.





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3. What frameworks do you have access to when hiring temporary/contractor staff?

We can confirm we use the following frameworks: PSR, ESPO, and CCS.

4. What frameworks do you have access to when hiring permanent staff?

We can confirm we do not use agencies to recruit permanent staff.

5. What recruitment managed services do you have in place for hiring temporary/contractor staff?

6. What recruitment managed services do you have in place for hiring permanent staff?

We do not have a managed service in place for hiring any of our staff.

7. The contact name and contract details the person responsible for dealing with temporary/contractor recruitment?

8. The contact name and contact details of the person responsible for dealing with permanent recruitment?

Section 40 – Personal information

In regard to Question 7 and 8 above, we are withholding information on the grounds that it constitutes third party personal data and therefore engages section 40(2) of the FOIA.

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:

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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 our recruitment team can be contacted via the following email address: recruitmentinfo@homesengland.gov.uk

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.

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

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@HomesEngland
www.gov.uk/homes-england





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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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