



Homes
England

Date: 7 November 2024

Our Ref: RFI4912

Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

[REDACTED]
By Email Only

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Request for Information – RFI4912

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:

I have been directed to this email address while seeking to understand how grant funding has been allocated to schemes across the north east of England.

Please can you let me know and if applicable direct me to, where the information is available, detailing the value of affordable homes granted to each scheme.

Response

We can inform you 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 and section 22 exemption, where information is intended for future publication under the FOIA.

The full text of the legislation can be found on the following links and we have quoted section 21 and section 22 below for ease.

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

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/22>

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

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Section 21 - Information accessible to applicant by other means

- (1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1)—
 - (a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and
 - (b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2)(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme.

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).
- (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).





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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 Affordable Housing team who collect and oversee the publication of the requested information are actively working towards its publication, namely the grants allocated since March 2023. If the team were to publish this information now in response to this request, rather than as currently planned, resources would be diverted away from other aspects of the delivery of Affordable Housing.
- It is important that sufficient time is given to consideration of the information in advance of publication to ensure its accuracy and completeness.

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

Advice and Assistance

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Section 16 of the FOIA. In order to comply with this duty we can confirm that the information is available online. The link below takes you to a landing screen that shows AHP 21-26 allocations up to March 2023. This provides general information about AHP 21-26 allocations made up to that time as well as a link at the bottom of the screen labelled 'Schemes confirmed by Homes England' that provides a scheme-by-scheme breakdown.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/affordable-homes-programme-2021-to-2026-summary>

We plan to update the link above with more recent allocations at the end of the current financial year (March 2025).

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

The Information Commissioner's details can be found via the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/>

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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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