



Homes
England

Date: 17 March 2025

Our Ref: RFI5036

Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

[REDACTED]
By Email Only

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Request for Information – RFI5036

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 write to ask for the Affordable Homes Programme - what is the number of long term empty residential properties which were brought back into use through this programme in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Response

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 Affordable Housing 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>

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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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 we have no way of knowing how long properties have been empty and therefore do not hold information on “long-term” empty properties. However, while we do not hold information on the length of time a property has been empty, we do know how many properties were empty at the time they were identified for renovation.

The chart below shows the number of units that were identified as empty homes for the financial years you have requested. The data for the current financial year is only up to the end of September 2024 which was the end of the last national statistics publication period. We will not be able to disclose the full 2024/25 data until after the end of year statistics are published around June 2025.

The number of empty properties brought back into use via the Affordable Homes Programme for the financial years you have requested are as follows:

2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
138	154	36

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

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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/>

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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