

Date: 6 May 2025 Our Ref: RFI5093 Tel: 0300 1234 500 Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

By Email Only

Dear

RE: Request for Information – RFI5093

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:

- 1) What is the primary SIC 2007 code for your organisation's activities?
- 2) How many workers are directly employed by your organisation?
- 3) How would you classify your organisation: Private, Public, or Voluntary?
- 4) In which region is your workplace located?
- 5) Do you recognise any trade unions in your workplace? If so, please name them.
- 6) What was the date your latest pay settlement/agreement, came into effect?
- 7) what date will your next pay settlement/agreement begin?

8) In this latest settlement/agreement, what was the percentage pay increase for your lowest-paid employee?

- 9) In this latest settlement/agreement, what was the standard percentage pay increase?
- 10) What is the job title(s) and hourly rate of your lowest-paid employees?
- 11) Are you a living wage foundation Accredited Living Wage Employer?

Response

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

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



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1) What is the primary SIC 2007 code for your organisation's activities?

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 General Council 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 that Government departments in the UK are not required to have a UK Standard Industrial Classification (UKSIC) code, as these codes are primarily used for classifying businesses and economic activities.

2) How many workers are directly employed by your organisation?

We can confirm that as of May 2025, there are 1496 colleagues directly employed by Homes England.

3) How would you classify your organisation: Private, Public, or Voluntary?

We can confirm Homes England are the government's housing and regeneration agency. We are therefore a public body. You can read more about what we do online via this link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/homes-england/about

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4) In which region is your workplace located?

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.

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

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

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.

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 can confirm that all our office locations are published online. You can access a full list of our office addresses online via this link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/homes-england/about/access-and-opening

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5) Do you recognise any trade unions in your workplace? If so, please name them. We can confirm Homes England formally recognises three trade unions: Unite, PCS and Unison.

6) What was the date your latest pay settlement/agreement, came into effect?

We can confirm that the latest pay settlement date was 1st July 2024.

7) what date will your next pay settlement/agreement begin?

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 HR 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 that we are unable to confirm any further details until the next Civil Service Pay Remit Guidance 2025 to 2026 is published by the Cabinet Office.

Further details about the most recent Civil Service Pay Remit Guidance can be found via this link: <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-service-pay-remit-guidance-2024-to-2025</u>

8) In this latest settlement/agreement, what was the percentage pay increase for your lowest-paid employee?

We can confirm that the latest settlement by percentage for the lowest-paid employee was 5% pay increase.

9) In this latest settlement/agreement, what was the standard percentage pay increase? We can confirm that the standard settlement by percentage was 5% pay increase.

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10) What is the job title(s) and hourly rate of your lowest-paid employees?

We can confirm the lowest hourly rate of pay is £14.23 for the position of Business Support Officer

11) Are you a living wage foundation Accredited Living Wage Employer?

We can confirm we are not a Living Wage Employer. As indicated above, our lowest hourly rate exceeds the current living wage of £12 per hour.

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.

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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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