

Date: 26 June 2025 Our Ref: RFI5261 Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

By Email Only

Dear

RE: Request for Information - RFI5261

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. A copy of any current strategic partnership agreement(s) or funding contracts between Homes England and Places for People relating to the Affordable Homes Programme (2021–2026).
- 2. Any documentation or reports submitted by Places for People to Homes England between 2023 and 2025 which reference:
 - o Internal restructures, staffing reductions, or redundancy plans.
 - Delivery risks, key performance indicators (KPIs), or governance matters affected by workforce changes.
 - Organisational changes that could impact Homes England funding conditions or grant compliance.
- 3. Any internal Homes England correspondence or performance monitoring reports in which Places for People's restructure or staff redeployment approach was discussed.

Response

1. A copy of any current strategic partnership agreement(s) or funding contracts between Homes England and Places for People relating to the Affordable Homes Programme (2021–2026).

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.

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

The Housing and Regeneration Agency



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

<u>Section 21 - Information accessible to applicant by other means</u>

- (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. In order to comply with this duty we can confirm our strategic partners sign up to the following Affordable Homes Programme grant agreement, which can be accessed online via this web link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/620bd0dce90e0710aa4b69f5/Strategic-Partnership-not-for-profit-long-term-AHP-2021-26-Grant-Agreement.pdf

- 2. Any documentation or reports submitted by Places for People to Homes England between 2023 and 2025 which reference:
 - Internal restructures, staffing reductions, or redundancy plans.
 - Delivery risks, key performance indicators (KPIs), or governance matters affected by workforce changes.
 - Organisational changes that could impact Homes England funding conditions or grant compliance.
- 3. Any internal Homes England correspondence or performance monitoring reports in which Places for People's restructure or staff redeployment approach was discussed.

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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

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 Homes England do not hold any documentation, reports or internal correspondence about workforce changes for Places for People. We believe any such documentation would be held internally by Places for People and it does not form part of our performance monitoring of Places for People as a strategic partner.

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

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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 TeamFor Homes England

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