



Date: 10 July 2025

Our Ref: RFI5271

Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

[REDACTED]
By Email Only

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Request for Information – RFI5271

Thank you for your request for information which was processed in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

You requested the following information:

I am writing under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 to request information about how your organisation is complying with Section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023. This duty, which came into force on 26 December 2023, requires public authorities to “seek to further” the statutory purposes of National Parks and National Landscapes (formerly AONBs) when making decisions that affect them.

Please provide:

- 1. Any internal guidance, procedures, or policies adopted since December 2023 to support compliance with this duty.**
- 2. Examples of decisions or actions since that date where the duty was explicitly considered or applied—especially in relation to the High Weald National Landscape.**
- 3. Any consultations or correspondence with Protected Landscape bodies (e.g. High Weald or Kent Downs teams) on decisions that may affect the landscape.**

We are particularly interested in any records showing how your authority is actively applying the duty beyond simply mitigating harm, as advised by Natural England and DEFRA guidance. Please provide responses in electronic format. If any information is withheld, kindly cite the relevant exemptions and reasons.

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

0300 1234 500
@HomesEngland
www.gov.uk/homes-england





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Response

Regulation 12(4)(a) – Information not Held

Under regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, Homes England may refuse to disclose information if the requested information is not held by that public authority.

When relying on Regulation 12(4)(a), Homes England must also advise details of any other public authority to whom the requestor could redirect their request to, and in accordance with this we can advise that you may wish to contact local authorities with land in National Parks or National Landscapes.

Regulation 9(1) provides that an authority must provide advice and assistance to applicants and in accordance with this we can advise that we have not identified any records for sites we own within National Landscapes that indicate that decisions have been made that specifically reference this duty.

Regarding planning applications for Homes England sites within National Landscapes, the proposals have made reference to and considered management plans for those particular landscapes. However, scheme design decisions for specific applications did not specifically reference this duty. There are no recorded decisions referencing this duty in relation to routine management of sites owned within National Landscape areas.

Further, we do not hold any internal policy, procedures or guidance to support compliance with this duty. Additionally, we have not engaged with local planning authorities or corresponded with protected landscape bodies since the LURA was enacted and therefore do not hold any consultations or correspondence on decisions that may affect the landscape.

Right to make Representations

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 a reconsideration of our response (Internal Review). You can make this representation by writing to Homes England via the details below, quoting the reference number at the top of this letter.

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

The Information Governance Team

Homes England

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2nd Floor
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Your request for reconsideration must be made in writing, explain why you wish to appeal, and be received within 40 working days of the date of this response (Reg 11(2)). Failure to meet this criteria may lead to your request being refused.

Upon receipt, your request for reconsideration 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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