



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local  
Government**

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Keith Lisle  
WDTK

Date: **16 December 2019**

Dear Mr Lisle

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 - 4773181**

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 18 November 2019 and processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request was:

*"From the Conservative 2015 and 2017 Manifesto Pledge for the right to buy housing association homes.*

- 1. After a first pilot of the right to buy had completed. Why was it decided to run a another pilot, the Midlands VRTB pilot as a ballot with limited funds.*
  - 2. How many applicants where in the first pilot, how many purchased their home, how much was the total cost of the first pilot?*
  - 3. Who set the limited funding and allocations to 6000 for the Midlands VRTB pilot?*
  - 4. As the Midlands VRTB pilot is still in fund and running until September 2020, who decides on if to run a seconds ballot for the unsuccessful applicants?*
  - 5. Will there be any further national right to buy rollout, as pledged in the conservative manifesto?*
  - 6. Will the right to buy run alongside the new announced shared owner right to buy?*
- Yours faithfully,*
- 7. If the right to buy has been cancelled and replaced with the SORB scheme, who decided this breath of the manifesto pledge?*
  - 8. When will the SORB scheme details for both new and existing housing association tenants be published?"*

We have determined that only questions 1-3 are requests for recorded information and therefore fall under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Questions 4-8 are not asking for recorded information and therefore we are providing this information outside of FOIA.

Please see below for the information which the Department holds and which we can provide you with.

**Question 1.** *After a first pilot of the right to buy had completed. Why was it decided to run a another pilot, the Midlands VRTB pilot as a ballot with limited funds.*

**Answer:** The Midlands pilot was announced in the Autumn Budget 2017, with the objective to test the Voluntary Right to Buy on a regional basis.

**Question 2.** *How many applicants where in the first pilot, how many purchased their home, how much was the total cost of the first pilot?*

**Answer:** In total the five housing associations in the pilot programme received 1013 applications. The pilot completed in July 2017, with a total of 405 sales, at a cost of £26,995,324.

**Question 3.** *Who set the limited funding and allocations to 6000 for the Midlands VRTB pilot?*

**Answer:** The funding for the Midlands pilot was announced in the Autumn Budget 2017, and the approach to allocating places on the pilot was decided by the MHCLG Ministers at the time.

Information being provided outside FOIA:

**Question 4.** *As the Midlands VRTB pilot is still in fund and running until September 2020, who decides on if to run a seconds ballot for the unsuccessful applicants?*

**Question 5.** *Will there be any further national right to buy rollout, as pledged in the conservative manifesto?*

**Question 6.** *Will the right to buy run alongside the new announced shared owner right to buy?*

**Question 7.** *If the right to buy has been cancelled and replaced with the SORB scheme, who decided this breath of the manifesto pledge?*

**Question 8.** *When will the SORB scheme details for both new and existing housing association tenants be published?*

Regarding questions 4-8, the relevant Policy team have confirmed that any further policy decisions on the Voluntary Right to Buy, and any decisions or announcements on any other housing policies, will be made by the next Government after the general election.

## **Complaints procedure**

If you are unhappy with this response, we will review it and report back to you. (This is called an internal review.) If you want us to do this, let us know by return email within two months of receiving this response. You can also ask by letter addressed to:

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government  
Knowledge and Information Access Team  
4th Floor SE, Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London, SW1P 4DF

If you are unhappy with the outcome of this internal review, you can ask the independent Information Commissioner to investigate. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at email address [casewoxx@xxx.xxx.xx](mailto:casewoxx@xxx.xxx.xx) or use their online form at [ico.org.uk/concerns](https://ico.org.uk/concerns) or call them on 0303 123 1113.

Yours sincerely

Knowledge and information Access Team