



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

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

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Mr Keith Lisle

Date: **3 November 2020**

Dear Mr Lisle,

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 - 9353075**

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 6 October 2020 and processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

- "1. Up to 10/10/2020, how many applications have been registered on the Homes England's IT system?"*
- 2. Up to 10/10/2020, how many applications have had their application cancelled?"*
- 3. Up to 10/10/2020 how many property sales have completed and now owned by the tenant.*
- 4. How much of the allocated £200,000,000 has now been spent?"*
- 5. When will the Midlands VRTB pilot report be completed?"*
- 6. Where will the surplus money from the Midlands VRTB be allocated?"*
- 7. If the Midlands VRTB pilot reports deems it successful will there be a national rollout of the VRTB?"*

We can confirm that the information requested is held by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and we are able to provide you with all this information. I have detailed below the information that is being released to you.

**1. Up to 10/10/2020, how many applications have been registered on the Homes England's IT system?**

As of 5 October 2020, a total of 3,879 applications have been entered into the system. This figure has risen slightly due to a small amount of additional data being captured on terminated applications.

## **2. Up to 10/10/2020, how many applications have had their application cancelled?**

As of 5 October 2020, of the tenants who have made an application to their housing association, 2,031 have either cancelled their application or had their application terminated by their housing association.

Reasons for termination may include a tenant not meeting the eligibility criteria for the pilot, or a tenant withdrawing their application for any reason, for example if they cannot afford the purchase.

## **3. Up to 10/10/2020 how many property sales have completed and now owned by the tenant.**

As of 5 October 2020, there have been 1,781 sales under the pilot.

## **4. How much of the allocated £200,000,000 has now been spent?**

As of 5 October 2020, £115.4m has been spent on funding Voluntary Right to Buy discounts under the Midlands pilot.

This figure captures the discount amount from the sales that is paid to housing associations, and the compensation paid to housing associations for the allowable costs of administering the scheme.

## **5. When will the Midlands pilot report be completed?**

The Voluntary Right to Buy Midlands pilot has not yet ended, with a few sales still to go through to completion. The evaluation report will be published after the pilot completes.

## **6. Where will the surplus money from the Midlands VRTB be allocate**

6,000 tenants were given the opportunity to apply to their housing association under the Midlands pilot. The applications and sales progressed more slowly than expected, and the level of dropout was higher than was forecasted, which meant that there was spare budget in 2019/20. Ministers decided to allocate some of that budget to urgent priorities, including the Private Sector ACM Cladding Remediation Fund.

## **7. If the Midlands VRTB pilot report deems it successful will there be a national rollout of the VRTB?**

As set out in the 2019 manifesto, the Government will evaluate new pilot areas for the Voluntary Right to Buy. We will announce more details on this in due course.

## **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](http://ico.org.uk/concerns) or call them on 0303 123 1113.

Yours sincerely,

MHCLG FOI Team