



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

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

Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 030 3444 0000
www.gov.uk/mhclg

Joe Brooks
What Do They Know

Date: **17 May 2021**

Dear Joe Brooks

**Environmental Information Regulations 2004
- 11097877**

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 22 April 2021 and processed under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). The EIR offers a similar access to the information to the Freedom of Information Act.

You requested:

'Please may you provide me with:

1) All correspondence, including emails, sent and received in the period between 1 April 2019 and 10 January 2021, between the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and representatives from the following organizations (and/or their subsidiaries) that reference the 'clean growth strategy' and/or 'future homes standard' and/or 'heat in buildings'.

- Persimmon/Persimmon Homes

- Bellway/Bellway Homes

- Taylor Wimpey

- Home Builders Federations

- Countryside Properties'

We can confirm that we hold this information, but we are withholding it as explained below.

The Department is not obliged to comply with your request for information, by virtue of the exception at regulation 12(4)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations, as we consider it to be "manifestly unreasonable". We are not suggesting that you

are personally being unreasonable, but this is the wording we are required to use in order to comply with the legislation.

A request for information to which this exception applies must still be complied with, and the information requested made available, unless the public interest served by doing so is outweighed by that served by maintaining the exception. However, we have no systems in place in order to determine which information is in scope of your request.

The Department does not hold a list of representatives or details of the subsidiaries of the organisations named, nor is there any requirement or a business need for us to do so. Therefore, it would not be possible to run accurate searches.

The organisations named could have corresponded with several officials in various business areas in the Department over the time period specified. To undertake such searches would cause considerable burden and a disruption to normal business. Even then, we could not guarantee that all information had been identified. Each item of correspondence would then have to be read to see whether it falls in scope of the request.

I therefore conclude that the public interest served by maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest served by complying with the request and making the information available. It may be possible however to consider a scoped down request restricted to named individuals and a shorter time period.

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 casework@ico.org.uk or use their online form at ico.org.uk/concerns or call them on 0303 123 1113.

Yours faithfully

MHCLG FOI Team