

Department for Communities and Local
Government
Fry Building
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London
SW1P 4DF

Telephone: 030 3444 0000

Mr David Turver
Via WDTK.com

Date: **26 October 2015**

Dear Mr Turver

Environmental Information Regulations 2004 - 1495766

Thank you for your request for information which was received on 12 October 2015 and which is set out in the annex to this letter.

This request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Q1 DCLG does not hold this information. Local authorities are responsible for Strategic Housing Market Assessments. Such assessments are examined by the Planning Inspectorate as part of the public examination into the Local Plans to test their robustness.

Q2 a) The DCLG household projections are based on the ONS Subnational population projections. These are based on past trends during the previous 5 years. Full information is available at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/snpp/sub-national-population-projections/2012-based-projections/stb-2012-based-snpp.html>

b) The household projections are based on past trends in household formation of various population groups and not a simple extrapolation of average household size. Full details are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/household-projections>

c) Detailed figures for individual local authorities are available for the population projections at the above ONS link and for the Household Projections in the detailed data available at the above DCLG link.

Q3 Household projections do not make assumptions about jobs growth. The population projections and assumptions, including data for local authorities, are available at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/snpp/sub-national-population-projections/Interim-2011-based/index.html>

Q4 Details of the 2012 based sub-national population projections and household projections are available at the links above. In particular, the household projection methodology document provides details of differences from the 2011-based projections.

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:

Department for Communities and Local Government
Knowledge and Information Access Team
1st Floor NW, 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 sincerely

Tim Hayward

2 Marsham St - London
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Annex

You requested: 1) *Can you provide an analysis of all SHMAs created under the current NPPF (or past five years) to show:*

a. The starting point dwelling building rate that would be required to meet housing need using the DCLG population projections.

b. The changes made to the housing requirements as a result of adjusting the baseline DCLG projections for

i. Changes to migration in and out of the local authority area

ii. Changes to expected household size

iii. Jobs forecasts

c. The end result dwelling building rate as a result of the changes in b above. I would be grateful if this could be broken down into local authority area or housing market area. By way of example, The Hart, Surrey Heath and Rushmoor SHMA started at 790 dwellings p.a. using the DCLG population projections and then as a result of the adjustments above ended up with a rate of 1,180 dwelling per annum (http://www.hart.gov.uk/sites/default/files/4_The_Council/Policies_and_published_documents/Planning_policy/HRS%20SHMA%20Final%20Report%20141219.pdf).

2) *Can you answer some questions about the way the DCLG population projections are put together:*

a. What underlying assumptions are made about inward and outward migration into an area? Is there a national formula, or do you rely upon projected forwards the past 5 years migration?

b. What underlying assumptions are made about average household size? Do you use either the 2008 or 2011 average household size projections and incorporate them into the population projections or do you use another method, if so, what other method?

c. What underlying assumptions are made on jobs growth and the impact that will have on population by local authority area?

3) *Thinking now specifically about my local area, can you answer questions 2a, b & c, specifically for Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath please; that is to say what specific assumptions about migration, household size and jobs growth were made in the 2011-based DCLG population projections for these three local authorities?*

4) *What changes have been made for the 2012-based projections?*