

Dear Ermine Amies

Thank you for your request received on the **6th February 2021**. Please find our response below.

**Freedom of Information request re: FOI-083**

**Response to:**  request-724859-52c6c72c@whatdotheyknow.com

**Contact Officer:**  Mike Scott

**Response from:**  Your Homes Newcastle, **5th March 2021**

Your Homes Newcastle (YHN) is an Arm’s Length Management Organisation (ALMO), set up in 2004 to manage council housing on behalf of Newcastle City Council (NCC). Your Homes Newcastle now manages 26,000 Newcastle City Council properties and 500 Leazes Homes properties.

**Information requested**

Please see in-line below responses to each of the six points of your request.

**1. Any application you made in 2019 or 2020 to be a “Stonewall Diversity Champion” or to be included on Stonewall’s “Workplace Equality Index,” including any attachments or appendices to those applications. Please redact personal details if necessary.**

The Stonewall Diversity Champions’ Programme is an Employers’ programme which includes access to best practice guides, resources and an account manager for questions and advice on LGBT issues. This is a programme for which an organisation pays a membership fee, rather than submitting an application. YHN was a Stonewall Diversity Champion in both 2018 and 2019.

YHN made a submission in September 2018 for the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index (WEI) 2019. The submission is made online and the process does not involve receiving a copy of the submission. YHN did not make a submission to the Workplace Equality Index in either 2019 (for the 2020 index) or 2020 (for the 2021 index).

**2. Any feedback you received in 2019 or 2020 from Stonewall in relation to either application or programme.**

The summary report received from Stonewall in 2019 in response to our WEI submission, made in 2018, is attached to the response email.

**3. Any other communication you have received from Stonewall in 2019 or 2020 unless privileged or otherwise exempt from disclosure (but if you claim privilege or exemption in relation to any material, please say in broad terms what the material is and the basis on which you claim to be entitled to withhold it).**

We receive regular monthly newsletters from Stonewall and occasional invitations to best practice seminars or other similar material. As this information would be ‘reasonably accessible’ by subscribing to a mailing list we are not including it here, under the exemption provided by section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

**4. Full details of any equality impact assessment you carried out connected with any of these applications (including any equality impact assessment carried out prior to an earlier application of the same kind, if no further assessment was done).**

YHN has not carried an Equality Impact Assessment in relation to membership of the Stonewall Diversity Champions’ Programme or submission to the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index.

**5. Details of the total amount of money you paid to Stonewall (i) in 2019; (ii) in 2020, whether or not as payment for goods or services.**

2019 – £2,500 membership of the Stonewall Diversity Champions’ programme

2020 – £2,500 membership of the Stonewall Diversity Champions’ programme

**6. Whether you intend to continue your membership of any Stonewall scheme in the future, and if so which.**

YHN has renewed its membership of the Stonewall Diversity Champions’ programme for 2020. We have no current plans to make a submission to the Workplace Equality Index.

If you are unhappy about how this request for information has been handled, you have the right to ask us to carry out an internal review.

You can do this by emailing us at information.requestsyhn@newcastle.gov.uk or writing to Information Requests, YHN House, Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7LX with details.

If you ask us to carry out an internal review and remain unhappy with the outcome, you can raise a concern with the Information Commissioner at www.ico.org.uk. The information Commissioner’s helpline can be contacted on 0303 123 1113.

Yours Sincerely

Information Governance Team