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Mr Peter Wallace  
[request-500951-49fce5ca@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-500951-49fce5ca@whatdotheyknow.com)

Our ref: FOI2018/16281  
22 August 2018

Dear Mr Wallace,

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Development land transfer to Homes and Communities Agency (Homes England)**

Thank you for your request for information of 24 July about Longbenton development land transfer to Homes England. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Defra has a continued operational requirement for the Veterinary Investigation Centre (VIC) at this site and it remains unclear if future low level expansion might require any part of the retained adjacent land, which also contains utilities.

We enclose a copy of the information you requested:

- Annex C – plan confirming the boundaries for land transferred to Homes England and land retained by Defra.

The area between the existing VIC and Whitley Road was identified as the only area suitable for low level future expansion of the VIC, while releasing land to Homes England. This combined with:

- the utilities (gas) main running through this area
- the limited value attributed by Homes England
- and the time pressure to complete the transfer to Homes England

led to the decision to transfer only the land identified on the plan to Homes England.

The latest Homes England Land Disposal and Development Plan (June 2018), including the longbenton site in the Pipeline section, is available via the link: <https://homesengland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Shortlist/index.html?appid=ec605cdd233f45348e904df6d406d153>

The contact for potential Defra land disposals is John Richards, Head of Corporate Property, Defra group Property, email: [john.richards@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:john.richards@defra.gsi.gov.uk).



Information disclosed in response to this FOIA request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk), together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

We attach Annex A, explaining the copyright that applies to the information being released to you, and Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Marie Taylor**  
**Information Rights Team**  
[InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

## **Annex A**

### **Copyright**

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## **Annex B**

### **Complaints**

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Nick Teall, Head of Information Rights, Area 4A, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: [InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk)) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our [website](#).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF