



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

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

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Mr Keith Lisle
Via email

Date: **13 February 2020**

Dear Mr Lisle

Internal review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 - 4948011

Thank you for your request for a review which we received on 23 January 2020. I am sorry that you are dissatisfied with our attempts to handle your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am the review officer appointed to undertake the internal review and I am writing to provide a response. I had no involvement in the original response to your request.

Background

On 20 December 2019 you requested the following information:

- "1. Up to 20/12/2019, how many applications have been registered on the Homes England's IT system?*
- 2. Up to 20/12/2019, how many applications have had their application cancelled?*
- 4. Up to 20/12/2019 how many property sales have completed and now owned by the tenant.*
- 5. How much of the allocated £200,000,000 has now been spent*
- 6. How many applicants from Worcester City Council have cancelled, how many have completed and how many still in the process of purchasing.*
- 7. How many applicants from Redditch Borough Council have cancelled, completed or still in the process of purchasing.*
- 8. How many applicants from Wychavon District Council have cancelled, how many have completed and how many still in the process of purchasing.*
- 9. How many applicants from Malvern Hills District Council have cancelled, how many have completed and how many still in the process of purchasing.*
- 10. How many applicants from Wyre Forest District Council have cancelled, how many have completed and how many still in the process of purchasing.*
- 11. How many applicants from Bromsgrove District Council have cancelled, how many have completed and how many still in the process of purchasing.*
- 12. Will there be a review of the Midlands VRTB pilot unsuccessful applicants before any other right to buy are started?"*

On 23 January 2020 the Department responded to your request, providing the information you requested for questions 1-5 and 12, and explaining that information relating to questions 6-11 was not held.

On 23 January 2020 you contacted us to request an internal review, stating:

“Why do you have figures of registered, cancelled and completed applicants but cannot break this down to areas saying you do not hold this information?”

Appeals Officer’s Response

I have reviewed the original handling of this case and can confirm that the department does not hold this information and that the original Case Officer was correct to suggest that you contact Homes England.

The pilot applications are managed through the IMS (Investment Management System), which is Homes England’s IT system. MHCLG holds the overall figures because Homes England provide these to us in weekly reports as part of their role in managing the pilot data from these applications.

Information broken down by local authority does not form part of these reports and so we do not hold this information.

Conclusion

Having reviewed this case I have concluded that the original Case Officer was correct to state that information relating to specific local authority areas is not held.

I would like to reiterate the advice provided by the original Case Officer that you may wish to contact Homes England directly, at the link below, to request this information from them

foi@homesengland.gov.uk.

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

Yours sincerely

MHCLG FOI Team (Internal Reviews)