

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

Telephone: 030 3444 0000

Mr James Evans
Via WDTK

Date: **11 May 2017**

Dear Mr Evans

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - 3284979

Thank you for your request for information which was received on 10 April 2017.

You requested: *Could you tell me if following the Local Government Select Committee Inquiry into the Community Rights:*

a) If the DCLG has requested any information, data or statistics from any relevant authorities or relevant bodies on the right to challenge as outlined in the Localism Act?

b) If the DCLG has received any information, data or statistics from any relevant authorities or relevant bodies on the right to challenge as outlined in the Localism Act?

c) If any summaries (partial or complete) of the numbers of challenges have been attempted or are held by DCLG - whether created by DCLG or a third party, and could be shared?

In the Government response to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee Inquiry into the Community Rights (Recommendation 12) it is noted:

'We have recently contacted all groups that have received specialist support through both the Community Right to Challenge and Community Ownership and Management of Assets programmes asking them about the impact of the support they received on their organisation and what they have achieved since. This includes questions as to whether they have submitted an expression of interest under the Community Right to Challenge, whether they have taken part in a procurement exercise and whether they have won a contract.

d) Is any information or data available on the specific questions asked, numbers of responses received and any action taken following receipt of responses?

In the Government response to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee Inquiry into the Community Rights (Recommendation 13 para 31) it is noted: 'We will work with local commissioners to examine the impact of the Community Right to Challenge and to consider other means to achieve its broad policy aims'.

e) Is any information or data available on the specific local commissioners the government is worked with, if this group has stated or summarised its conclusions on the impact of the right to challenge and other means that have been consider to achieve its broad policy aims?

This request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am writing to advise you that I have established that the information you requested is not held by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Brought in by the Localism Act 2011, the community rights are fundamental to helping communities to take greater control and exercise more influence over what is happening in their local area and influence better service delivery. Since 2012, we have put in place a number of programmes to build social capital and embed a broad understanding and adoption of the rights among stakeholders, ranging from local authorities to Voluntary and Commercial Sector and community groups.

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

Yours sincerely

Andrew Lock
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