



30 January 2020



Dear 

Freedom of Information Request (FOI)

I write with reference to your FOI request received on 6 January 2020 reference CA79. Please find the response provided below.

Question:

In the pre-election period, and soon after announcing a review of the Oxford-Cambridge expressway should the Conservative Party be returned to power, the Rt Hon Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Transport, was interviewed on 20th November 2019 by Bethan Nimmo of BBC TV South who reported that Mr Shapps, commenting on the one million houses proposals for the expressway, had said that Local Authorities along the route had told him that ‘they can still build those homes and that they don’t need a road blasting through the countryside to do that’.

You can listen to this BBC TV South item here (report of Mr Shapps’ comment is towards the end of the clip):

<https://www.noexpressway.org/news-updates/2019/11/23/news-bbc-south-today-november-20-2019>

Yours would have been one of the Authorities contacted in relation to this item since you are included in the area shown on the NIC/5th Studio Report identifying the quantum of the one million houses assigned to each region that you can find in map form on p. 21 of the Report:

<https://www.nic.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/NIC-FinalReport-February-2018-Rev-A-optimised.pdf>

Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 I formally request copies of all communications between Mr Shapps’ Ministry and your Authority that led to Mr Shapps’ statement, specifically:

a) letters, emails or records of telephone conversations made by, or on behalf of, Mr Shapps with your Authority asking if you could still deliver your share of the one million houses even if the expressway is cancelled; and

b) copies of the response of your Authority to this request.

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The Boulevard
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Alconbury Weald
HUNTINGDON
PE28 4XA

Answer:

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority holds no record of communications with the Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP concerning one million houses proposals for the expressway.

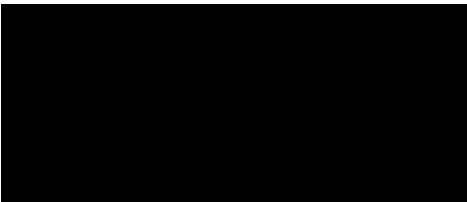
For clarity, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is not a local planning authority.

I hope this information is helpful but if you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review, you should write to us via our contact us email address – contactus@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk or write a letter to Complaints, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, Incubator 2, The Boulevard, Enterprise Campus, Alconbury Weald, Huntingdon, PE28 4XA within 40 days of the date of this e-mail.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, or via their website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

Generally, the ICO will not undertake a review or make a decision on a request until the internal review process has been completed.

Yours sincerely



Sue Hall
Governance Assistant



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