

FOI number: **HBC\_FOI\_20200061**  
Date FOI Received: **23/01/2020**  
Department: **Legal**  
Title: **Transfer of Housing Ownership**  
Description: **Details of Hertsmere Borough Council transferring ownership of housing to Ridgehill Housing Association and then subsequent changes (William Sutton Homes, Affinity Sutton, Circle Housing, Clarion Housing).**

**Request: (As Redacted sent by requestor)**

I am writing to request a copy of the complete agreement between Hertsmere Borough Council passing ownership of Hertsmere Borough Council's homes to Ridgehill Housing Association signed in 1994 and subsequent changes to this agreement when Ridgehill merged with William Sutton Homes to become Affinity Sutton in 2007 and when Affinity Sutton merged with Circle Housing to become Clarion Housing in January 2019.

**Response: (Response as Redacted sent by service)**

I apologise for the delay which has been partly attributable to difficulty in locating documents.

The council confirms that it holds some of the information which you have requested. The council holds the transfer agreement dated 31.3.94 transferring the housing stock to Ridgehill Housing Association Limited. It also holds the minutes of the council meetings associated with the transfer decision. I enclose these documents.

In this context the council does not hold documents relating to more recent transactions that would have taken place between Ridgehill Housing Association, Affinity Sutton or Clarion Housing since it was not a party to further transactions with them having already disposed of its housing stock to Ridgehill Housing. You may find it useful to make contact with those companies directly.

The council has redacted names of individuals, such as tenants names, which appear in the documents and relies on the exemption provided for by Reg 13 (1) (a) and (2A) Environmental Information Regulations 2004 in that to disclose the information to the public would contravene any of the data protection principles. The principle relied upon is art 5 (1) (a) GDPR which provides that personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner. It would be unfair to process personal data in a way not expected by the individuals concerned.

If you have any queries about the processing of your request then please do not hesitate to contact me.

**<NOTE THAT DUE TO SIZE THIS FILE HAS NOT BEEN UPLOADED.>**

The Information Commissioner oversees the application of the Environmental Information Regulations. You may contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office  
Wycliffe House, Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113 Website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)