

19<sup>th</sup> October 2009

Your ref: Letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009  
Our ref: R00167

## Freedom of Information Request – Housing Corporation

Thank you for your letter dated 21st September addressed to Pam Alexander which follows our response (dated 18<sup>th</sup> September) to your original letter (dated 1<sup>st</sup> September).

I am responding to your latest letter since I have responsibility within SEEDA for responses handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

### Your Request

Your request to SEEDA is:

*"I would like you to confirm merely the following regarding the Housing Corp. while you were Chief Executive.*

- 1. When was your time as Housing Corp Chief Executive, and the length of this position?*
- 2. Housing Corp's Solicitors were Trowers Hamlin? Did you consult others?*
- 3. Did you preside over the drawing up of the lease model, that was to form what is now the standard issue lease for tenant and shared ownership by all housing associations?*
- 4. Moat Housing Group was not given any funding directly for a no. of estates they requisitioned because they did not comply with the regulatory needs by yourselves and was lodged with the Land Registry?*
- 5. When these failures occurred, why didn't the Housing Corp question these many estates built in the same way? Presumably Trowers Hamlin were the Housing Corp's solicitors for all of the issuing of leases to all Housing Associations?*
- 6. When Ms Rosamund Blomfield-Smith replaced yourself as Chief Executive, was she aware of the normal procedural differences as regards finance not being given directly on sub-standard housing?*
- 7. Can you tell me how this money was refused by the Housing Corp – or was it never asked for?*

*You state in your letter that this is not a SEEDA matter but I beg to differ for it is SEEDA's role to ensure that 'sustainable housing' is built in the South East – and SEEDA has been well aware that much of this housing doesn't and didn't comply with SEEDA's remit. Has SEEDA ever taken up these issues – you have an office in Medway – there is no excuse really?"*



## **Access to Information**

The information you have requested is not held by the South East England Development Agency. SEEDA's role with regard to sustainable housing is to promote sustainability by working in partnership with other bodies, such as the South East Excellence Partnership. However, SEEDA does not itself have any statutory responsibilities with respect to building standards nor for the actions of individual housing associations nor of the Housing Corporation. I therefore reiterate the statement made in our previous letter that the questions you raise are not a matter for SEEDA to address.

I am advised that this may be a matter for the South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership, which has confirmed that it is able to address at least some of your questions. It can be contacted by writing to:

Janine Boughton  
STG Building Control Partnership  
Compass Centre  
Pembroke  
Chatham Maritime  
Kent  
ME4 4YH

or by calling 01634 331 133.

Finally, as a matter of fact, Ms Alexander never held the position of Chief Executive of the Housing Corporation but was rather its Deputy Chief Executive from 1995 to 1997. Any inquiries relating to this period should be directed to one of the successor bodies, The Homes and Communities Agency or the Tenant Services Authority.