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Department of Infrastructure

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Our ref: 1858125

8 July 2021

Dear ###

We write further to your request which was received on 21 June 2021 and which states (sic):

"The number of people per year who have accessed the First Time Buyers' Scheme, and successfully purchased a property using it, since it's inception in July 2014.

By comparison, the number of people who utilised the House Purchase Assistance Scheme each year up to July 2014."

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance the public authority does not hold or cannot, after taking reasonable steps to do so, find some of the information that you have requested.

I have detailed below the information that is held.

The inception of the First Time Buyer Scheme was 1999 and therefore, the Department has provided the below table showing the number of assisted purchases in each financial year from when the first version of the House Purchase Assistance Scheme came into operation in 1999. The numbers per financial year are then broken down to show which Scheme the purchases were made under and this includes the Shared Equity Schemes, both of which were introduced in 2014.

To be clear, although your request asks for the number of people who have accessed the Schemes, the Department has provided the below figures to show the number of assisted purchases rather than individuals since the information on numbers of assisted persons is not held. Each of these assisted purchases may either represent a sole person or a joint purchase by more than one person.

Acronyms or shortened names for the Schemes are used in the table as follows:

HPAS 1999 – House Purchase Assistance Scheme 1999

HPAS 2002 – House Purchase Assistance Scheme 2002

Over 45s – House Purchase (Persons Aged 45 or Over) Assistance Scheme 2005

HPAS 2007 – House Purchase Assistance Scheme 2007

HPAS 2012 – House Purchase Assistance Scheme 2012

SEPA FHF 2014 – Shared Equity Purchase Assistance (First Home Fixed) Scheme 2014
 SEPA FHC 2014 – Shared Equity Purchase Assistance (First Home Choice) Scheme 2014

Year	HPAS 1999	HPAS 2002	Over 45s	HPAS 2007	HPAS 2012	SEPA FHF 2014	SEPA FHC 2014	Total
99/00	32							32
00/01	68							68
01/02	111							111
02/03	40	35						75
03/04		85						85
04/05		89						89
05/06		223	0					223
06/07		94	0					94
07/08		124	0	38				162
08/09		24	2	73				99
09/10			2	54				56
10/11				98				98
11/12				53				53
12/13				19	32			51
13/14					87			87
14/15					16	0	7	23
15/16						24	25	49
16/17						13	22	35
17/18						12	17	29
18/19						19	12	31
19/20						19	6	25
20/21						9	11	20
Total	251	674	4	335	135	96	100	1595

Please quote the reference number 1858125 in any future communications.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your freedom of information request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by completing a complaint form and submitting it electronically or by delivery/post.

An electronic version of our complaint form can be found by going to our website at <https://services.gov.im/freedom-of-information/Review> . If you would like a paper version of our complaint form to be sent to you by post, please contact us and we will be happy to arrange for this. Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made as soon as practicable. We will respond as soon as the review has been concluded.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner for a decision on;

1. Whether we have responded to your request for information in accordance with Part 2 of the Freedom of Information Act 2015; or
2. Whether we are justified in refusing to give you the information requested.

In response to an application for review, the Information Commissioner may, at any time, attempt to resolve a matter by negotiation, conciliation, mediation or another form of alternative dispute resolution and will have regard to any outcome of this in making any subsequent decision.

More detailed information on your right to a review can be found on the Information Commissioner's website at www.inforights.im.

Should you have any queries concerning this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Further information about freedom of information requests can be found at www.gov.im/foi.

We will now close your request as of this date.

Yours faithfully

FOI Response Team