



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending  
watchdog

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Email [FOI@nao.org.uk](mailto:FOI@nao.org.uk)

Reference FOI-1667

Date 09 November 2023

Dear

## GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING LOANS INVESTMENT FUND

Thank you for your request of 13 October 2023 on behalf of your client, for information relating to the Greater Manchester Housing Loans Investment Fund. We have considered your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We have searched our records and can confirm that we do not hold the information you requested. To put this response into context, the National Audit Office does not carry out the audit of, nor does it have any remit or control over, local bodies such as the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

Your specific request is set out in **Annex A** together with our response to each part of the request.

I am sorry we do not hold the information you seek on this occasion, but I hope this response is helpful. **Annex B** sets out the steps you may wish to take if you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request for information under FOIA.

Yours sincerely,

NAO FOI Team



## **Annex A**

### **Request for information:**

*This request relates to the Greater Manchester Housing Loans Investment Fund (GMHILF). Specifically, we would like to request any information held on, or relating to:*

- (i) The National Audit Office's authority over, scrutiny, control, oversight of and/or involvement in the GMHILF;*
- (ii) if/how The National Audit Office assesses the GMHILF's lending; and*
- (iii) the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's (GMCA) lending relationship with Renaker Build Limited (Renaker) as part of the GMHILF and the fact that the GMCA has established various caps on its lending to Renaker (see [here](#) and [here](#)). As a result of said caps, the GMCA seems to have also facilitated further lending to Renaker via third party organisations/schemes (see the above two links and [here](#) as well).*

*Part (i) of our request is a straightforward query concerning your relationship with this scheme. In relation to parts (ii) and (iii) of our request, we are primarily interested in your evaluation/assessment of the GMCA and GMHILF and, additionally, their associations with Renaker (including the above mentioned caps and substituted lending schemes). The information itself may comprise assessment reports (most obviously), but also email correspondence, file notes, advice documents, briefings, memos, and other forms of recorded information (including information which may have been archived or deleted).*

### **NAO response**

We have searched our records and can confirm that we do not hold any information in scope of your request.

In relation to the specific information requested in parts (i) to (iii) above:

(i) The National Audit Office (NAO) audits the accounts of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). As part of our annual audit of the statement of accounts we are aware of the loan balance between DLUHC and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). However, beyond that we have no authority over, scrutiny, control, oversight of and/or involvement in the Greater Manchester Housing Investment Fund (GMHIF). Nor do we have any information on any onward loans given to other parties by the GMCA.

(ii) The NAO has no role or remit in assessing the GMHILF's lending.

(iii) The NAO holds no information on the lending relationship between the GMCA and Renaker Build Limited.

If you have not already done so you may wish to approach the DLUHC and/or the appointed auditor for the GMCA who may hold the information you seek.

The appointed auditor for the GMCA is Mazars LLP and the engagement lead is who can be contacted on

## **Annex B**

### **Statement of Policy**

Our policy is to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as helpfully and promptly as possible, having regard to the principles set out in the Act. I therefore hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not, then you should take the following steps.

In the first instance, within 40 working days, write to the National Audit Office Freedom of Information (FOI) Team at [FOI@nao.org.uk](mailto:FOI@nao.org.uk) or by post to:

FOI Team, Green 2, National Audit Office, 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SP

The Head of FOI will arrange a review, which will be conducted by a senior member of staff who was not involved in decisions relating to your original request. Once the review has been completed, we will write informing you of the outcome.

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 primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Alternatively, you can contact the ICO at <https://ico.org.uk/> or Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF.