



Further to your information request FOI/EIR 24/25-094, please find your question and our response below.

**Request:**

1. How many planning applications have you received since (and including) 2 April 2024?
2. Of those applications, how many have been validated?
3.
  - (a) Of the validated applications, how many have claimed exemption from mandatory biodiversity net gain?
  - (b) Of those claiming exemptions, how many have relied on each exemption:
    - (i) Householder application
    - (ii) Self build or custom build application
    - (iii) Application for a biodiversity gain site
    - (iv) HS2-related application
    - (v) 'De minimis' exemption where less than 25sqm of area habitat, 5m of hedgerow, 5m of watercourse and no priority habitat are affected
  - (c) Of those claiming the de minimis exemption, how many have set out what habitats are within the red line boundary for the application?
4. Of the validated applications not claiming exemption from mandatory biodiversity net gain (i.e. answer to Q2 minus answer to Q3(a))
  - (a) how many have been granted permission?
  - (b) of those granted permission under Q4(a), how many have submitted a biodiversity gain plan?
  - (c) of those submitting a biodiversity gain plan under Q4(b), how many have had it approved?

**Response:**

1) 199

2 - 4) This information is available for customers to view on our public access webpage. Please see: [Simple Search \(eastcambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)

Under 'advanced search', scroll down to 'Data Validated' and enter 02/04/2024 to today's date and 'Search'. This will bring up all applications, where you will also have access to the application form which would include any exemption detailed.

In respect of those requests that were answered in full or partially and the total refused please take this as notice under FOIA, that we:

- a) Consider the information as exempt from disclosure under the Act;
- b) Claim exempt under sections of the Act:

**Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

- c) State why the exemption applies:

***The information requested is accessible to you via other means.***

Section 21 states the following:

- 1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under Section 1 is exempt information.
- 2) For the purposes of subsection (1) –
  - a. Information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and

- b. Information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

Therefore, as the Council publish this information, the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Act.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 24/25-094.

If information has been refused, please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach [foi@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:foi@eastcambs.gov.uk) and request a review. A request for review must be made in no more than 40 working days from the date of this email.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.