

HOUSING ACT 1988

Account of the Grants and Loans made to the Housing Action Trusts by the Secretary of State for the Environment for the year ended 31 March 1998, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. (In continuation of House of Commons Paper No. 690 of 1997-98.)

Presented pursuant to housing Act 1988, c. 50, sch. 8, para 9(3)

Grants and Loans to the Housing Action Trusts Account 1997-98

ORDERED BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TO BE PRINTED 19 APRIL 1999

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Housing Act 1988: Sums paid and received by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions in respect of Housing Action Trusts

Foreword

Scope of the Account

- 1 Under paragraph 9(1) of schedule 8 to the Housing Act 1988 ("the Act"), the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions is required to prepare an account for each financial year showing:
 - (a) the sums paid by him to each Housing Action Trust under paragraph 3 of Schedule 8 to the Act (grant-in-aid);
 - (b) the sums issued to and received by him under paragraphs 4(4) and 4(5) respectively of Schedule 8 to the Act (loans from the National Loans Fund), and the disposal by him of such sums under paragraph 4(6); and
 - (c) the sums paid by him into the Consolidated Fund or the National Loans Fund under paragraph 7 of Schedule 8 to the Act (surplus funds).
- 2 This Account is prepared under paragraph 9(1) of Schedule 8 to the Act for the year 1997-98. It has been prepared in the form and manner directed by the Treasury under paragraph 9(4) of Schedule 8 to the Act.
- 3 The Appropriation Account concerned with the expenditure is that for Class VI, Vote 2.

Accounting Officer's responsibilities

4 The Principal Accounting Officer (Permanent Secretary) of the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions has been designated by the Treasury as the Accounting Officer for this Account. The relevant responsibilities of Accounting Officers, including their responsibility for the regularity and propriety of the public finances for which they are answerable, and for the keeping of proper records, are set out in the Accounting Officer Memorandum issued by the Treasury and published in *Government Accounting*.

Richard Mottram
Accounting Officer

8 January 1999
Department of the Environment,
Transport and the Regions

The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the Houses of Parliament

I certify that I have audited the financial statements on page 2 under the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980.

**Respective
responsibilities of the
Accounting Officer
and Auditors**

As described on page 1 the Accounting Officer is responsible for the preparation of financial statements and for ensuring the regularity of financial transactions. It is my responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on my audit, on those statements and on the regularity of the financial transactions included in them and to report my opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures and regularity of financial transactions in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the judgements made by the Accounting Officer in the preparation of the financial statements.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by error or by fraud or other irregularity and that, in all material respects, the payments and receipts have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and conform to the authorities which govern them. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In my opinion:

- the account properly presents the receipts and payments of the Secretary of State for the Environment in respect of grants and loans to the Urban Development Corporations for the year ended 31 March 1997 and has been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 and directions made thereunder by the Treasury; and
- in all material respects the grants paid have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and conform to the authorities which govern them.

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

John Bourn
Comptroller and Auditor General

2 March 1999

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157-197 Buckingham Palace Road
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London SW1W 9SP

Housing Act 1988

Account prepared under Paragraph 9(1) of Schedule 8 to the Housing Act 1988 ("The Act") of the sums paid and received by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions under Paragraphs 3, 4 and 7 of that Schedule in respect of Housing Action Trusts for the year ended 31 March 1998

- 1 Sums paid by the Secretary of State to Housing Action Trusts under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 8 to the Act.

The grant-in-aid payments made by the Secretary of State to each Housing Action Trust in the financial year 1997/98, and for comparison the payments made in 1996/97, are as follows:

1996-97		1997-98
£16,999,999	North Hull Housing Action Trust	£2,200,000
£22,530,000	Waltham Forest Housing Action Trust	£30,100,000
£20,750,000	Liverpool Housing Action Trust	£18,200,000
£14,307,129	Castle Vale Housing Action Trust	£18,800,000
£9,800,000	Tower Hamlets Housing Action Trust	£10,000,000
£5,320,000	Stonebridge Housing Action Trust	£9,000,000
<u>£89,707,128</u>		<u>£88,300,000</u>

- 2 Sums issued to and received by the Secretary of State under Paragraphs 4(4) and 4(5) respectively of Schedule 8 to the Act, and the disposal by him of such sums under Paragraph 4(6) of Schedule 8 to the Act.
- 3 Sums paid by the Secretary of State into the Consolidated Fund or the National Loans Fund under Paragraph 7 of Schedule 8 to the Act.

There were no transactions under headings (2) and (3) in the financial year 1997/98.

Richard Mottram
Accounting Officer

8 January 1999
Department of the Environment,
Transport and the Regions

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