

Standard response template: Providing the applicant with all the information requested.

Ref No: 13/0887

23rd July 2013

Thank you for your email of 8th July 2013 where you requested the following information:

All correspondence from DECC's chief scientist David MacKay to Friends of the Earth in the last four months on the subject of the BEAC 'carbon calculator' tool.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

I can confirm that the Department holds the information you have requested. The information you requested is attached.

Appeals Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be sent to the Information Rights Unit at:

Information Rights Unit
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
E-mail: foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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 Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Some information constitutes personal data and has been withheld. Section 40 of the Act provides an absolute exemption for personal data which then falls to be dealt with under the Data Protection Act. Personal data of third parties can only be disclosed in accordance with the data protection principles. In particular, the first data protection principle requires that disclosure must be fair and lawful and must comply with one of the conditions

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in Schedule 2 of the Data Protection Act. We do not think that it is fair to release the names of junior members of staff and do not think that any of the relevant conditions apply.



Department
of Energy &
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15 May 2013

Dear Rose, Doug, and Mike

Burning Wood for Power Generation: the facts explained

I'm writing concerning your factsheet that includes a chart of preliminary results from DECC's Bioenergy Emissions and Counterfactual (BEaC) calculator.

I'm committed to rigorous and balanced evidence being used to inform DECC's policies. You'll also be aware from the approach that I've taken to develop BEaC and 2050 pathways calculator that I actively seek review and challenge of the evidence we use in DECC. I value and promote this open and collaborative approach to development and use of evidence in government, and am very grateful for the constructive and fact-based engagement we have had with you and others during the last 3½ years' work on the 2050 calculator.

In March 2013 we shared at a workshop an unfinished version of BEaC with stakeholders, including industry and NGOs, as part of a peer-review process for the calculator. We asked that stakeholders review the calculator and, if appropriate, share it with others, to help with the review process. We emphasized that the calculator was not intended for public circulation at that time, and we committed to address reviewers' comments and publish the calculator this summer.

I'm surprised and disappointed therefore that the RSPB, Greenpeace and FoE factsheet **Burning Wood for Power Generation** shows and cites outputs from BEaC. I acknowledge that the factsheet describes BEaC as a prototype and the results as preliminary; but I don't think using the material in this context without specific permission accords with the spirit in which we shared the model with the reviewers.

Moreover, this use of BEaC follows FoE's publication of the draft calculator on a website soon after the workshop. We spoke to Mike at the time and you agreed to remove the file from the website.

UNCLASSIFIED

I wish to continue an open and constructive relationship with all of DECC's stakeholders and I would like to urge you to treat unfinished analysis and material shared for review with more care in future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Mackay". The signature is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

DAVID MACKAY FRS
DECC Chief Scientific Advisor

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