



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change

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Our ref: **13/0973**

16 August 2013

Dear

RE: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 23 July 2013 where you requested the following information:

"I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act. I understand my request will take 20 working days to process but I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt via Christopher.hastings@mailonsunday.co.uk.

My request concerns the issue of 'Prince's Consent' which is a process whereby Ministers consult the Prince of Wales on bills and aspects of policy which are likely to have implications for him as the Duke of Cornwall and or his Duchy of Cornwall estate (including its holdings and assets).

Please note that I am only interested in information which relates to the period 1 January 2013 to the present day.

Please note that I am interested in receiving all information relating to bills and or policies and or other statutory instruments irrespective of whether they were implicated and or acted upon.

But please note that I am only interested in those bills and policies which were the subject of discussions because of the issue of Prince's Consent.

Please note the reference to Minister in the following questions should include the relevant Minister and or Secretary of State as well as any individual working in their private office.

1...During the aforementioned period has any member of the Ministerial team and or any member of staff from the Minister's private office met with the Duke of Cornwall to discuss any bill and or Government policy and or piece of legislation which could have implications either for him as the Duke of Cornwall and or the Duchy of Cornwall estate and its holdings and assets. If the answer is yes could you please state the date, time and venue of the meeting. Could you also provide a full list of those present. If relevant could you please identify the relevant bill and or piece of proposed legislation. Could you please detail any other issues under discussion.

2...During the aforementioned has any member of the Ministerial team met with any representative and or employee of the Prince of Wales/Duke of Cornwall to discuss bills and or policies and or pieces of legislation which could have implications for either the Duke of Cornwall and or the Duchy of Cornwall estate, its holdings, assets and employees. If the answer is yes could you please state the date, time and venue of the meeting. Could you also provide a full list of those present. If relevant could you please identify the relevant bill and or piece of proposed legislation. Could you please identify any other issues under discussion.

3...During the aforementioned period has any Minister and or any member of staff in the Minister's private office exchanged communications and or correspondence with the Prince of Wales and or his Principal Private Secretary . I am only interested in correspondence and communications which in any way relates to the issue of Prince's Consent. This correspondence could relate to a particular bill and or policy and or other legislative instrument which might have implications for the Duke and or his Estate. Similarly it could relate to another aspect of Government policy. Alternatively it could relate to the overall issue of Prince's Consent. If the answer to the above question is yes can you please provide copies of all correspondence and communications including emails.

4...During the aforementioned period has any Minister and or any member of staff in the Minister's private office exchanged communications and or correspondence with any law firm and or legal firm acting on behalf of the Duke of Cornwall and or the Duchy of Cornwall estate. I am interested in those correspondence and communications which relate to bills, government policies and statutory issues which have come under consideration due to the issue of Prince's Consent. If the answer to this question is yes. Could you please provide copies of all this correspondence and communications including emails."

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 am writing to advise you that, following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not held by this Department. No information has been located relating to correspondence, meetings or any associated information between Decc ministers or their support staff and the Duchy of Cornwall estate or its representatives for the period specified.

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 addressed to the Security & Information Rights Unit (foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk).

Security & Information Rights Unit (DECC Shared Service)
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

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.

Yours sincerely