



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW
www.decc.gov.uk

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Our ref: FOI 14/ 0483

14 April 2014

Dear **Redacted**

RE: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 17 March in which you asked for the following:

"1) I am seeking information on meetings between Ministers of DECC and representatives of the Global Warming Policy Foundation, and those publicly associated with the charity. This would include:

- *Dr Benny Peiser*
- *Lord Lawson*
- *Lord Donoughue*
- *Lord Fellowes*
- *Rt Reverend Peter Fisher*
- *Sir Martin Jacomb*
- *Baroness Nicholson*
- *Sir James Spooner*
- *Lord Turnbull*

I am requesting information on meetings in the period beginning 01/01/2014 and continuing up to the day this request is filed.

For any meeting please provide:

- I. Time*
- II. Place*
- III. Attendee list (including name (where disclose-able under requirements of DPA) and job title of each attendee)*



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Please also provide any documentation in relation to any meetings, including:

- I. Any meeting minutes*
- II. Correspondence in relation to meetings*
- III. Meeting readouts*
- IV. Briefing notes*
- V. Or other meeting memoranda*

2) I am also seeking information about correspondence between DECC ministers or their special advisors, and representatives of the GWPF.

I am requesting correspondence generated in the period beginning 01/01/2014 and continuing up the date this request is filed.

Please ensure that your search for correspondence includes:

- I. Email correspondence (including attachments)*
- II. Memos*
- III. Reports*
- IV. Briefing documents or the equivalent*
- V. Letters*
- VI. Telephone records and any notes made during and after telephone calls*
- VII. Correspondence includes any other type of correspondence frequently used by the department, including text messages and private emails*
- VIII. Correspondence that is stored on cloud services such as Dropbox"*

Some of the information which you have requested may constitute environmental information for the purposes of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs). However, to the extent that the information requested is not environmental we have also considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Accordingly, your request has been considered under the terms of the FOIA and EIR.

After a preliminary assessment of your request we are unable to provide you with this information because in our view the exception in Regulation 12(4)(b) of the EIRs is engaged. This regulation provides that a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that the request for information is manifestly unreasonable.

In order to provide you with the information on the scale that you have requested would require a search of all the records, computer drives and email accounts of all DECC Ministers, their private office staff and Special Advisors for a three month period.

In applying this exception, we have considered the public interest in disclosing the information. In this respect we recognise that disclosure could enhance public understanding of the Government's engagement with external organisations and facilitate the accountability and transparency of Government decisions. However, we consider the balance of the public interest lies in favour of withholding the information. This is because your request would place a



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substantial and unreasonable burden on the resources of the Department and on balance, therefore, we consider that the public interest would be better served deploying our resource in undertaking core work of the Department

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain. You could for example: state the specific subject you wish to know about and provide a shorter period of time.

To the extent that any information within scope of your request is not environmental in nature, your request has also been considered in accordance with the FOIA. The Department wishes to be as open as possible in answering requests, and to help people obtain the information they are looking for. Unfortunately, we cannot provide the information you have requested as your request is too wide and the effort to administer your request would exceed the limit prescribed in Regulations made pursuant to Section 12 of the Act. This limit is £600 which represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. The Act provides that we are not obliged to comply with requests where the estimated cost of complying would exceed this limit.

For the reasons described above your request is also refused in accordance with Section 12 of the FOIA.

You may wish to be aware that brief details of all DECC Ministers meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly bases on the www.gov.uk website at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=department-of-energy-climate-change&publication_type=transparency-data

Information covering the period of your request is being compiled and checked and will be published in due course.

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 Information Rights Unit (foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk).

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



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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,

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